# MDEPENDEN

Old and new collide in Swindon

Battle for the soul of Labour Books Offer

Formula 1
Dream Team

TUESDAY 12 MARCH 1996 40p (IR 45p) Meet AS Byatt,

erotic novelist

A new trend in publishing Section Two, page 4.0

Figures reveal a nation profligate in use of energy and ignoring the warnings on waste

# Britain is burning up its future

**Environment Correspondent** 

Aworrying picture of Britain as a nation profligate in its use of energy and having ignored the international warnings of the past 25 years is revealed in official figures published today.

If the revelations are made in a long list of "state of the envificial figures published today."

. The average British home consumes as much fuel each year as it did in 1970, in spite of two oil-price shocks caused by Middle East wars and a suc-lication of the figures make cession of government energyefficiency campaigns. Transport of openness about its environof both people and freight con-mental performance. sumes about twice as much energy as it did 25 years ago, yet there has been no gain at all in

compiled after a call for action. 1970, but in doing so they conat the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, will alarm environ- fuel. This has happened because

regard for finite natural re-sources, and make clear that global warming, acid rain and urban smog pollutants are like-

veiled by John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, today. Statisticians in his department say that pub-· Britain a world leader in terms

But at least one-third of the indices reveal that our environmental performance is getting worse. Britons travel almost twice the distance they did in sume more than twice as much

have also switched from more Lorries have become much larger, which should in theory energy-efficient public transport to private cars. mean freight transport wastes Furthermore, cars have less energy. In fact there has shown no improvement in miles been no improvement; this is thought to reflect the decline in per gallon for nearly a decade,

Iwenty five wasted years

rail freight and changes in re-

tail and factory distribution.

"I'm surprised at this finding,"

Transport Association declared. The average home uses as much electricity as it did in 1970, showing that in spite of the growing range of electrical ap-pliances, they have become more efficient. But we also use as much fuel to heat our homes, despite two decades in which governments have promoted and subsidised draught-proofing and better insulation. Anna Stanford, energy campaigner with Friends of the Earth, said: "No improvement over 25 years is pretty outrageous. It's extremely disappointing, because saving energy is not just about cutting fuel bills

loog before coal does. Furthermore, while transport and households bave shown no improvement, the new indices show that industry does perform much better. Mr Gummer will be presenting the charts and graphs to the press today. Yesterday, he

missed a chance to minimise his personal impact on the environment - having chosen to travel by Concorde to New York for a day trip and return to London subsonically.

about boosting competitive-ness, jobs and the economy." The Government will point

out that today's home beating

is mostly done by gas, whereas 25 years ago coal dominated. Gas is a much less polluting than

coal - but it will also ruo out

The supersonic aircraft uses far more fuel per passenger mile and reducing pollution but

mcr, whose flight was paid for meeting of "internationally eminent persons" selected by UN General Secretary Boutros Boutros Ghali. The panel is planning a UN environment conference later this year.

Andrew Warren, director of iodustry lobby group the Association for the Conservation of Energy, said the Government had failed to regulate the increasiogly privansed fuel market in a way which eocouraged energy efficiency.

An internal British Gas memo was leaked to him at the weekend, Rob Leonard, director of business development for one of the nation's biggest energy companies, wrote that he did not "want to take a high profile on the issue ... there is no

### PLO: We're ready to shoot at Israelis

PATRICK COCKBURN

Palestinian soldiers and police in Gaza and the West Bank have eceived orders to shoot back if

ceived their orders," said Marwan Bargbouti, the general secretary of Fatah, the main Palestinian political movement, on the West Bank yesterday. It is the first time a senior Pales tinian leader has spelt out what will happen if Israel fulfils its threat to re-enter Palestinian towns and cities in response to the spicide bombing campaign. Mr Barghouti, a veteran leader of the Palestinians in the

i'st Bank, said the difference aft it in 1994 and today in is now held by 20,000 Mi stiman police. He

Palestinian leader, has brought in more armed forces than allowed under the Oslo agreement. Officially described as under the Oslo peace accords, - police, they are often experia senior Palestinian official has enced combat troops. Israel "Our forces will light, of because it wanted to strength-course. They have already reen Mr Arafat against Hamas,

the Islamic militant movement. By saying publicly that Palestimian troops have orders to fight an Israeli reoccupation or incursion, the Palestinian leadership is presumably trying to avert any attack.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, has been trying to prevent any military move into Palestinian-controlled areas because this would end the Oslo agreement. But, if there 'st Bank, said the difference are more suicide bombs, he may be unable to resist public demands for the Israeli army to return. There is no doubt that the Israeli army could fight its way claimed, actual number, in, but probably only at the cost

> y and ..ew. themoruary. West y their 1.2 mil-

precedented pressure because Israel has stopped all movement into or out of 465 villages and seven towns. The currew was lifted for 12 hours yesterday for people to buy food or get medical attention. Gaza is also under tight siege

with manufacturers choosing to

concentrate on acceleration,

high speeds, luxury and safety

with Israeli naval vessels turning back Palestinian fishermen. given a bunch of flowers free with every purchase because growers are prevented from exporting them. Mr Arafat says he will personally bring back flour to Gaza before he goes to the international conference, to be attended by President Bill Clinton, John Major and at least 20 other world leaders, on the threat to the peace process. It opens tomorrow in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Mr Arafat has intensified

his drive against the political and military wings of Hamas in the last week. Three leaders of Izzedine al-Qasim, the military arm of Hamas, regarded by Israel and the US as the men behind the suicide bombs, bave been arrested. However, five suicide bombers are reported to have already received explosives and to be awaiting orders to strike. At the weekend a statement said to bave come from the bombers said they were calling off a proposed truce.



Anti-terror summit, page 11 A Palestinian and his Israeli guard in the West Bank village of Hussan yesterday after raids on homes of Hamas suspects

Westminster that it might be de-

laved until 2 May in order 10 en-

sure that tax cuts were in pay

packets - but that would have

broken the convention that a by

election should occur within

sitting MP, who in this case was

### Paper softens line on EU veto

ited White Paper the twinie of the EU is ex-This criticism today by failing to give an absolute promise to repain the British veto in all

reas of policy.
The White Paper will restate Britain's strong opposition to any extension of majority volmake an uncondipise to refuse to

like foreign and tax policy. The White Paper will further make it clear that it does not see the case for any extension of majority voting and will oppose moves to secure it.

But the careful wording of the White Paper - by what it does ot say rather than by what it es - will leave the Government slender room for a lastdirch compromise at the Inter-Governmental Conference by agreeing to the extension of ma-

jority voting in peripheral policy areas such as research and development and the

The issue is important to the IGC because Britain's biggest partners, including Germany, will press for more issues to be decided by majority voting which at present require unanimity. Unanimous decisions mean that each country has a veto to block a decision with which it disagrees. Majority voting is known technically

as Qualified Majority Voting be-cause votes are weighted ac-cording to the size of country.

The latest potential irritant to Eurosceptics became clear yesterday as Tory concerns over the threat posed by Sir James Gold-smith's Referendum Party were exposed by the leak of a confidential Tory party document estimating that it could deprive the Conservatives of up to 25 seats and "make the difference between the Conservative Party winning or losing the election"

The warning is contained in a Central Office summary of an earlier, also leaked, briefing paper prepared for the Tory MEPs which warns that "the greatest danger to the Conservative Party will be in marginal seats which have been targeted by the RP. Pro-European Conservative candidates in marginal con-

stitueocies could see their vote

erode significantly." The leak came as it was confirmed that the Staffordshire South East by-election - which

**Heseltine humiliation** Michael Heseltine faces a humiliating defeat over his plans for cutting employees' rights in small businesses. Page 2 on present poll projections will reduce the government's majority from two to one - will now **Bouncing back** take place on 11 April. There had been some speculation at

> the FT-SE100 index closing just 35.8 points down.

A woman walking her dogs was drowned by a sex attacker, who tied her hands behind her three months of the death of the back and threw her alive into a News analysis, page 13 | river.

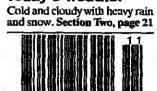
London yesterday defied fears

of a stock market collapse with

Cocker sorts it

Jarvis Cocker, lead singer of Pulp, has been cleared of assaulting three children following his one-man riot against Michael Jackson at the Brit pop awards last month.

Today's weather



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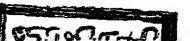
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IN BRIEF

TV show for bomb victim's father

The father of Warrington bomb

victim Tim Parry is to have his own TV show. Colin Parry, 48,

will conduct a series of current

affairs interviews for Granada.

President Bill Clinton is among

those who may be approached

to take part in the series. Inter-

Mr Parry, 48, impressed sta-tion executives with his dignity and composure after the IRA bomb that killed his 12-year-old

son three years ago. Yesterday

he said: "I'm delighted to be

asked but it remains to be seen

how I do." The series is sched

£950,000 award A man left crippled for life by

an accident nn a bouncy castle won £950,000 agreed damages

from the Territorial Army and the castle hire firm. Andrew

Day, 28, of Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, was left wheelchair

bound after injuring his spine during a 2am prank on a TA night out in Bristol in Septem-

The price of fame An anonymous collector paid £43,000 at Christie's in London

for a tiny and previously un; recorded Sevres porcelain plaque of the Duke of Welling-

ton, commissioned by an un-known admirer in 1815 after

Waterloo. The portrait had been valued at £8,000.

A smoker who lit up three

times on a flight from New York to Heathrow was fined £400. Joanne Norris, 33, of Saffron

Walden, Essex, ignored warnings by Virgin Atlantic crew that smoking was banned and twice lit a cigarette in the toilet. Uxbridge magistrates heard.

The rogue Chinese spy satellite

early today. Radar operators who have been tracking its

progress now believe the one-tonne device will drop into the "south Atlantic or Indian Ocean some time before 7am.

A woman was found starved to

home she shared with her hus-

band and son. Kathleen War-

button, 54, weighed less than 4st

but a chicken was roasting in the

oven and her kitchen was

Starved to death

it plunges to Earth at 450mph

Passing us by

The price of flame

view With Parry.

### Oiling wheels of debate at the despatch box chalet drain all drama out of the Sea

Questions in the House, as readers probably know, get answered by whichever one of a team of ministers has the relevant portfolio. So, like those figures on Alpine barometers. a different minister will appear at the despatch box for each query, rotating back on to the bench when finished with a colleague popping up to replace him or her. They give out statistics, get cross with critics and remind everyone of what life was like when the Opposi-

tion was in power. Yesterday there were three of them in the little transport chalet - each one dealing with

Parallel

inquiry

into

Stafford

crash

Transport ministers were ves-

terday forced to announce an independent inquiry into the

Stafford train crash amid from

the local Tory MP that an in-ternal inquiry by Railtrack was

wholly inappropriate".

Bill Cash, MP for Stafford.

described the accident as "horrendous" and insisted; "It should be a full and complete

public inquiry, which deals with all aspects of this matter in-cluding Railtrack maintenance." There was also disquiet in

Parliament and in the railway

industry that Railtrack had

been so fast to discount any

cause for the accident which might reflect badly on its own

operations, On Saturday, less

than 24 hours after the accident. Railtrack said that initial in-

quiries found no evidence that

a track defect or signalling had

Yesterday, Railtrack an-nounced that attention was fo-

cussing on whether a broken

axle had caused the freight train to derail before the mail train

hit it. Railtrack said a derailment investigation team, part of

British Rail Research was spe-cially focusing on the collapse of

one of the axles on one of the

A senior industry source was

surprised by Railtrack dis-

counting possible causes, saying:

wasn't a broken rail under the

wreckage? Even if there is a bro-

ken axie, that did not necessarily

cause the crash as it could have

man to lead the internal inquiry.

However, despite Railtrack's

appointment of an outsider to

head its own inquiry, the Rail-

ways Minister John Watts an-

nounced that the Health and

Safety Executive had been

asked to carry out "an inde-

pendent investigation and pre-

pare a special report in

addition to Railtrack's report.

the Commons. Clare Short,

Labour's transport spokes-

woman, asked Mr Watts:

"Don't you think it's disgrace-

ful that Railtrack should absolve

themselves of responsibility for

this terrible accident at Stafford

before we have had the in-

quiry? Don't you agree that it

would be absolutely wrong to al-

low Railtrack to be floated be-

fore its safety standards have

Mand Style Costal Strategies of Style

Care Bally and

During transport questions in

resulted from the impact.

four-wheel tank wagons".

caused the accident.

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

Transport Correspondent



DAVID AARONOVITCH

a different disaster area. When the oil off the Welsh coast was raised, out came Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport – a man so hosule to public transport that he cycles in London (where only comgreater risk). The portly figure of John Watts squeezed out to deal with the Staffs train crash. And reference to the mess that is London transport (for some reason there doesn't seem to be any transport outside London). would see Steve Norris swing

The first question to Mr Norris was a puzzling one. Did he realise, asked the veteran Tory, Sir Sydney Chapman, that deregulation had "led to buses reaching parts of Chipping Barnet undreamt of 10 years ago?" Which bits of Barnet. I wondered, could he mean? Duck's muting by hang-glider carries a Island, Underhill, or Monken

Hadley? No - they were all there in 1986. So were there previously unexplored and semi-103 steps. barbaric crescents, lined with semi-detached, mock-Tudor houses and harbouring savage stockbrokers lost to civilisation

vers cut their way through? Presumably there were. Barnet is also the end of the Northern line. This, of course, is not a line that goes to the North. In fact, all too often, it doesn't go anywhere at all. It is London's most rickety Underground route - the black one on the tube maps. My own local station, Kentisb Town, its esca-

-until courageous Shoppa dri-

lator permanently out of commission, can only be used by those capable of walking down

Conservative John Marshali (Hendon tube station, Edgware branch), had good news for the likes of me. One of Parliament's most assiduous congratulators, he praised the Government's investment in the Northern line, and excitedly predicted a 1997 with hundreds of new trains queuing up to take those happy (if exhausted) passengers who had made it as far as the platform.

Which was all very well, grumped Glenda Jackson, MP Sir George einerged, his task lo couldn't afford it.

for two stops down, except that sections of the line were being closed for months on end. Hugh Dykes (two stops up) agreed

What ingratitude, snarled Norris. Didn't members realise that the lines were out of commission precisely because of the huge investment going on? Massive delays, he implied, were a natural result of vast sums of money being poured into the system. Which is a relief. Most of us would far rather. suffer as a result of lots of money, than from too little.

The barometer swung, and

Empress, leaving it unable to pollute his party's coastal waters. This he did by listing in a flat

monotone the statistics for marine damage caused by the oil. 2,500 birds had died, but (his voice lifted infinitesimally) 3,000 birds had not. As to seals, he intoned, 50 had been heavily oiled, 40 moderately oiled, 30 lightly oiled and incalculable numbers were swimming about completely unoiled. Any second, you thought, he would tell the House that under the last Labour government, only 20 seals got oiled - the rest simply

uled to begin in the Gran La TV region on July 23. Racecourse blaze

# Irish job

Sir Patrick Mayhew yesterday gave a clear signal to Jinhu Maor that he does not want to be moved from the Northern Ireland office in a summer reshuf-

ceasefire.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland made it clear. that he believed it was his duty

The annesty Bill will give a

The Irish government will introduce similar legislation to



to remain in office to see the peace process through its most difficult period.

statutory guarantee to terrorists that they will not be arrested for carrying lethal weapons or bombs for disposal.

Ministerial sources said the terrorists were unlikely to give up guns, but have been anxious to surrender home-made Wreckage: Rescue workers at the 75-vehicle rush-hour nurthbound pile up on the M11/A11 in Essex in thick fog yesterday morning. Emergency bombs, when they become unservices blamed 'rubber necking' when 20 southbound vehicles also crashed. One person died and 13 were Injured Photograph: Brian Harris stable.

fie, writes Colin Brown.
It came as Sir Patrick prepared plans to introduce a Bill to give terrorists an amnesty if they dispose of guns or bombmaking equipment. This is aimed at intensifying the pressure on the IRA to resume its

give terrorists equal rights to an amnesty in the Republic.

## Heseltine is defeated over bills

91 recession, when thousands of showed government depart-

**COLIN BROWN** and PETER RODGERS

Michael Heseltine was facing a humiliating defeat last night by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, over the Deputy Prime Minister's plans for cutting employees' rights in small businesses.

Mr Lang is preparing a com-promise plan to preserve em-Railtrack has appointed ployees' rights, but to provide James Ward, a former director arbitration, to cut the number of safety and quality at British of cases going to industrial Rail, as an independent chair-

Mr Heseltine's defence of

For half a century, successive

Tory and Labour governments

bave grappled unsuccessfully

with the problems of small

Attempts to find simple, po-

litically appealing answers have

failed, because the more close-

ly the problems faced by en-

frepreneurs are examined the

more complex they have

proved. Yet the political pres-

sures to deal with the issue are

immense because more than

half of all employment outside

nesses was also rejected by Mr Lang with the backing of the Prime Minister, who announced a package of measures to en- payments." courage firms to pay their bills

The Government has rejected the idea of legislation to force firms to pay interest on late payments, but John Major announced Government departments will be asked to set an example by paying their bills promptly to small business. Stephen Byers, the Labour spokesman, said: "It has been

Analysis

successful - it became the 3i

venture capital group which was floated recently-but its role

Bolton report on how govern-

ment could help small firms and

ended with the Wilson report on

finance and industry, a large

part of which was devoted to

small businesses. In those days

The 1970s began with the

No big idea to help small firms

a bad day for Heseltine. He has clearly lost out in the battle over employees' rights, and Major has rejected his approach to late

The use of aribtration was to deny millions of employees a conciliation and arbitration seen at Westminster as a clever of small firms the legal right to service that will help reduce this move by Mr Lang to tackle the problem caused by too many cases going to expensive industrial tribunals. Another Labour source said: "We have been looking at stepping in be-fore cases go to industrail tri-bunals. It is a hit like the step hefore going into divorce, by

small firms went bust because

their banks pulled the plug. This

led to a fresb political row over

the relations between small firms and their banks.

But once again it proved im-possible to find any all em-

bracing solutions, and the

outcome was a series of codes

lighted a vast array of other problems for small firms. There

together are more important

than difficulties over finance.

They include a mass of red tape

in tax, employment, health and

safety and companies legislation

and a confusing number of

bodies providing advice. Other issues are high business rates

and serious deficiencies in ed-

a growing view that these

However, the row also high-

of practice.

ate before cases go to tribunals.

Mr Heseltine had proposed. take their bosses to a tribunal for compensation, a move designed to ease the administrative burden on small firms.

Unveiling a package of new measures to help small firms, Mr Lang said there were "no serious differerences" between him and any of his colleagues. Mr Lang added: "What we present requirement - intro-

ments as well as large companies were failing to pay bills on time. It was this issue that put

small firms back in the limelight.

hate that the original straight-

forward solution of a statutory

right to interest on late pay-

ments proved to have many

drawbacks, and the Govern-

ment and many business lobhies

Small firms now look likely

to be an important part of the

election campaign as the main

parties line up detailed policies for their manifestoes. Many of

their ideas overlap. Indeed, Labour and Tory ministers have

each accused the other side of

stealing their recipes.

Michael Heseltine, when he

have gone cool on the idea.

But it was typical of the de-

Ministers are studying the possibility of using the arbitration service, ACAS, to conciliindeed on employees—that inindeed on employees - that industrial tribunals now create.

"I think that we can achieve very considerably - without in any way undermining the interests either of the employer

or the employee. Mr Major said the government would look at whether big companies should be forced to publish data on how late they paid their bills, rather than the

port on their policy for payment. Ministers are considering publishing "more rigorous" league tables of the payment performance of departments and looking at extending this to

local authorities: The Lord Chancellor is to announce improved ways for small businesses to collect debts after court orders. The Prime Minister also announced a review aimed at streamlining govern-

ment support for small business. Leading article, page 14 City comment, page 19

#### stocked with food, an inquest at Bristol was told. The last laugh The Cockney comedian Arthur Mullard left £245,000 to char ity but only £5,000 each tod son John and daughter Bar The bulk of his £255,620 tate goes to the Natio dren's Home Children charit last Decemb

. LEBG.

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#### . ODA DSS National Heritage - Health Home Office Foreign Office Northern ireland DIEE Welsh Office Scottish Office

Heseltine was responsible at the DTI for setting np Business Links, a nationwide network of small firms advice centres. He also made small firms policy an important part of his two com-

Defence

petitiveness White papers. But Mr Heseltine's gaffe over his late payments as a small businessman undermined his

Minister, not his deput, who introduced the small trms con-

ference yesterday.

The Labour Paty, for its part, is determine to snatch the initiative. Next week Tony Blair is to introduce andustry forum conference on the subject.

> Peter Rodgen **Business** Edit

#### the biggest concern was a short-age of fmance and the focus was been sorted out?" Railtrack is fewer than 100 staff, and as a on how best to give government expected to be floated on the group they create more new jobs help and encourage the City to supply more funds. This led to loan guarantees stock exchange in May. than large firms. Mr Watts replied that Ms in the early post-war years. the Labour government and the Short had presented a "false" schemes - which still exist - unpicture and that safety on the Bank of England set up the der which the Government un-Industrial and Commercial railways was at an all time high. Finance Corporation to boost derwrites part of the cost of Mr Watts said it was "unwise to commercial loans to small firms. speculate as to the causes of this investment in what was regarded as a vital part of the The preoccupation with fiaccident" when only preliminary nance resurfaced after the 1990information was available. economy. The organisation was

#### was president of the Board of ucation and training. Trade, made small firms a cen-Investigations also threw np the scandal of late payment, and credibility. It was probably no tral part of his policy, a theme continued by lan Lang. Mr

"I'll never forget my mother's face when I told her."



"I was stunned to hear that I had cancer. At my age. I just couldn't accept it. The rear just grey, and grew, like the cancer itself. That changed when I began to come to the Marie Curie Hospice Centre.

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e in de la company TO PERSONAL

# Commons printer jailed for corruption

House of Commons notepaper, embossed with the distinctive portcullis design, is being printed by a company in Wales whose former chairman has just served a prison sentence for.

bribing a senior government of-ficial, it emerged yesterday. Betty Boothroyd, the Speak-er, said she would refer the contract with Cardiff firm, Wilprint, to the Serjeant at Arms, the chief Commons official.

In October last year, Keith Gordon Wilson, then chairman and managing director of Wil-print, his family business which employs 50 people, was sen-tenced to nine months imprisonment at Cardiff Crown Court for giving two cars to a Welsh Office official in charge of handing out printing contracts.

In January this year, Mr Wilson successfully appealed against sentence, which was brought down to four months. He was released from prison and has since remained unemployed while Wilprint is run by his wife, Hilda.

Bennett at the Welsh Office gave £400,000 in printing contracts - 30 per cent of his £1.3m budget - to Wilprint over two years after being bribed with a Ford Sierra and a Ford Escort.

- Mr Bennett was information manager at the Welsh Office in Cardiff and organised the printing work. In a two-year period, Wilprint received two and a half times more than its nearest competitor and, said the pros-

er complained of not getting work. Officials ordered an internal inquiry headed by a former senior police officer.
Ownership of the cars was checked and traced to Mr Bennett. Wilprint also paid the tax and insurance. Mr Bennett was

convicted alongside Mr Wilson and received the same nine-

month sentence, reduced on appeal to four months.

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, raised the question of the Commons stanonery in Parliament yesterday. "The proprietor [of Wilprint] was sent down for corruption for four months just before Christmas and came out in January,

Mr Morgan said.
The MP asked Ms
Boothroyd: "Since the portculis of this House and all our proceedings have to be seen to be totally above board and free from even the most indirect hint or taint of corruption, could you explain to me how I should draw this to the attention of the proper anthorities, so that we can see that the portcullis of this House and the notepaper on which we write shall always be The court heard that John seen to carry the respect which

we always thought it had?"
At Wilprint, David Virgin, the sales manager, refused to dis-cuss the Commons order or how long the company had had the business, claiming it was bound by a confidentiality clause with HMSO.

Mr Virgin confirmed that Mr Wilson had relinquished his role in the firm. "After what happened he is not involved in the business." He accused Mr ecution, almost as much as the other contractors put together.

The gift of the cars came to light in 1992 after another print order at Westminster.

### Justice for the common people as Cocker is cleared

REBECCA FOWLER

His own fans chanted "Justice for Jarvis" from one side. Michael Jackson's followers hurled abuse from the other. One 16-year-old girl was arrested for threatening behaviour. In the middle, emerging from Kensington police station, west London, in his trademark black-rimmed glasses, the object of their praise and opprohrium, Jarvis Cocker.

The teen idol and lead singer

The teen idol and lead singer of Pulp, who was answering police bail, was cleared of assaulting three children yesterday following his one-man riot against Michael Jackson's appearance at the Botton's appearanc son's appearance at the Brit awards last month.

He was told by police there would be no charges brought against him following his im-pulsive entrance on to the stage at Earl's Court Arena. Jackson was performing the

"Earth Song", apparently mod-elling himself on Christ, surrounded by a chorus of children. Following his 30-minute in-terview with the police Cocker, 32, said: "I'm just happy. It's not very nice to have allegations st you that you'd go and assault children, and punch chil-

He added: "I was very upset.
I think anyone would be. One of the worst things you can be accused of is not something

you'd want on your CV."
The incident has already secured him a place in rock's annals of flamboyant behaviour. Cocker made V-signs at Jackson and allegedly knocked three children over before heing removed by guards. Cocker pro-vided the police with video evidence to prove that he had not hurt the youngsters. One young boy claims he cut his ear during the incident, and a number of others said they had

heen upset and shocked. Despite the furore Cocker's followers viewed his interruption as heroic. The singer claims he felt "ill" in the face of the self-deification of Jackson, who has had charges of child abuse against him dropped.

Cocker, described as a designer nerd, said: "I thought it was in had taste given allega-tions that were brought against him in the past. But the main thing really was this messiah



thing, and the idea that people touching the hem of his gown would cure them. I'm not particularly religious hut I think anyone setting themself up as a messiah figure is a hit dodgy."

his hit single "Common People" and the alhum, Different Class, was reluctant to be lahelied a hero.

However Cocker, who is seen as a champion of the masses for

"I'm not a hero, It really was something done on the spur of the moment ... it's not a par-ticularly great thing to be fa-mous for. I'd rather be known for music."

Jackson, the reclusive singer, was said to have been deeply upset by the incident. His record company allegedly said that he was "sickened, saddened, shocked, upset, cheated, angry

ering whether he will pursue any legal action against Jackson over the allegations that were made against him. "That's something we're considering, because I was accused of assaulting children. I'm con-

and disgusted", by the affront.

Mr Cocker is currently consid-

sidering whether I should take that any further. I don't like the fact that has been reported," he However, Cocker added that he did not wish Jackson any ill. 'Eve always said throughout this

### Beatles get back to where they once belonged

prime-time listening to The latest single as the grand finale to the showpiece session.

The move follows the station's decision not to include the group's new song "Real Love" dio I said yesterday that it on its playlist. The exclusion order, which upset many fans, Mayo's entire Golden Hour.

dio I said yesterday that it most influential music. Many current artists have been influenced by The Beatles and the to get the policy reversed. group's new song "Real Love"

massive pre-release play and will Beatles today - using the band's not benefit from being regularly heard on daytime shows. Despite this, however, the

song came into the charts at number four this week, and Ra-

Radio 1 controller Matthew are the greatest rock and roll hand the world has ever known most influential music. Many have been excluded and the

Beatles-influenced music.

starting at 9am, to Beatles and hour will include work by those artists too. Since Mr Bannister's arrival. Bannister, said: "The Beatles Radio 1 has been redefining itself and cultivating a younger audience. As part of the process, and have made the world's the veteran rockers Status Quo

band intends to sue in an effort

thing I haven't got a personal vendetta against Michael Jackson. He can dance. Anyone who came up with moon dance is all

### Setback for inventor in Walkman court claim

PAUL FIELD

An attempt by a middle-aged in-ventor to prove he came up with the idea of the Sony Walkman suffered a setback at the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

Andreas Paves, ...

in a legal battle with the Sony
Corporation over patent rights
for the portable stereo. Yesterday, Mr Pavel launchLaunched in 1979, the Walkman ing his appeal against the judghas carned the Japanese elec ment and sought to amend his 
patent with a new definition of 
his design as being "suitable for 
his design as being "suitable for his design as being "suitable for his design as being "suitable for his design as h Andreas Pavel, 51, is locked

Mr Pavel has consistently attachment to a belt".

Claimed Sony infringed his "However, counsel for Sony patent, filed in 1977, for a and Toshiba, also contesting "stereophonic reproduction systems the application, argued that

pair of headphones strapped to a hulky belt, attached to which was a small cassette player, amplifier, batteries and a storage pouch.

However, Sony argued the technology was obvious and not inventive, and in 1990 the

the amendment to a patent His machine comprised a was "an indulgence, not a to £100m.

right". After 10 minutes of de-liberation, Lord Justices Neill, Hobhouse and Aldous rejected the application and instructed Mr. Pavel's counsel to proceed with the appeal against the 1990 ruling, which is expected to last eight days.

The cost of the legal action, estimated at more than £1m, is likely to ruin Mr Pavel if he los-

es on appeal.

If the judgment goes against Sony, Mr Pavel, the youngest son of a wealthy German industrialist, stands to become a very rich man by qualifying for royalties of between 1 per cent and 5 per cent of Sony's Walkman sales in Britain, equivalent

### £13.5m drugs sting backfires on Irish police

**ALAN MURDOCH** 

A multi-million pound drugs sting set up by Irish police to trap some of Europe's biggest drug dealers has hackfired, leaving the cream of Ireland's detectives and a justice minister with egg all over their faces. The plot was simple: to catch

the suspects red handed as they imported a £155m (IR £150m) 13.5 tonne shipment of cannabis. Suspicions were aroused after the drugs were found last

November in a parked trailer at Urlingford in Kilkenny. But a planned swoop by garda drug squad officers never took place and no one was ever arrested. opposition Progressive Democrats (PD) justice spokeswoman, enraged the Irish government by claiming the

consignment was really a gardai-inspired entrapment that failed. She alleged the Irish police, as-sisted by a top United States drugs enforcement agent, delivered the consignment to Ireland for collection by drug barons who were led to believe they were buy-

ing from the US maffa. Much to the government's embarrassment there were also claims that even when the drugs arrived there was little or no criminal involvement: gardai ran the whole exercise and

This month, tipped off by her security sources, Liz O Donnell, trawler reportedly hired by detectives in Co Cork. From there it was taken to Kilkenny hy a gardai driver masquerading as a criminal courier.

The Irish government denied there had been any attempt at entrapment, Officials claimed that a confiscated £240,000 "downpayment" confirmed criminals were involved.

But opposition politicians claim their view of events is supported by the justice minister, Nora Owen, who told the Irish parliament: "On the level at which the importation was authorised, it was an operational decision and did not involve any

### **Balliol stands** firm in Nazi money' row

**LOUISE JURY** 

The Oxford college at the centre of a storm over a professor's post financed with money allegedly connected to Nazi war crimes was understood to have agreed yesterday that it should

Dr Gert-Rudolf Flick, whose grandfather Friedrich allegedmade his fortune using slave labourers and was jailed at the Nuremberg war crimes trial, of-'fered last year to fund a new university chair attached to

Controversy broke out when details of his family history emerged and some dons expressed concern at Dr Flick's

family associations and the "moral taint" of the funding. But the governing body of Balliol discussed the matter at its end of term meeting yester-day and fellows were understood to have continued to back the plan for a Chair of European Thought in the Flick name.

Lord Weidenfeld, the pubisher who came to Britain from Austria as a Jewish refugee, was instrumental in encouraging Dr Flick's bequest in his role as vice-chairman of the Oxford Development Fund. Neither Balliol nor the uni-

versity would comment last 20th century.

night, but Lord Weidenfeld said he had received word from the college that it had agreed to support the new chair and was very pleased. He said he had been anxious

that no one should he incriminated for crimes with which they had no connection. "I feel very strongly that the sins of the father should not be held against the sons. Those who know [Dr Flick] well, as I do, know that he has wholly dissociated himself from those views and is def-initely a convinced anti-Nazi." The row had been a "rather disagreeable experience" for him.

Lord Weidenfeld said that he very much hoped the controversy was now at an end and that the chair would prove a positive development benefiting, in particular, east European students who had been victims of communist and racist persecution. He added: "It is not easy to get money [for university chairs] these days.

Professor John W Burrow, who has been already appointed the first holder of the post, has said he planned a series of lectures on notions of race and nationality in the 19th century to explore the roots of ideas which had dire consequences. such as the Holocausi, in the

### M62 and car park ready for Wilson statue

REBECCA FOWLER

A list of proposed sites for a monument to Harold Wilson, the former Labour prime minister who died last year. including the top level of a multi-storey car park and a bridge policy committee at Kirklees over the M62 motorway, have metropolitan council tonight, been condemned as "barmy" by are the middle of a roundthe citizens of his bome town.
The life-size sculpture, which

has not been completed, was commissioned to take pride of and outside an electricity shop place in Huddersfield. West on the outer ring road.

Yorkshire, where Lord Wilson grew up in the 1930s. But there is concern that the suggested locations are an insult to his

memory.

Among the other proposals, which will be considered by the about on the outskirts of Huddersfield, the entrance to a shopping centre loading bay,

Critics of the locations include Harold Ainey, 80, a for-mer classmate of Lord Wilson's at New Street council school in Milnsbridge. "He would turn in his grave if he knew what was happening," he said. All those sites, particularly the loading bay, are an insult to an outstanding politician and a great

prime minister."

Lord Wilson, who died aged 79, rose from humble roots to become an Oxford don, the youngest cabinet minister this

century, and the most success-ful Labour prime minister in history. But he never lost his common touch, and revelled in his image as a man of the people who poured HP sauce lavishly over everything he ate.

The preferred site for the memorial is St George's Square, in the heart of the town. Its supporters include Eric Lawson, who sits on the policy commit-tee. "These other hizarre sug-gestions have exposed the council to ridicule," he said.

But the council has insisted that all the proposed sites will suggestions, but there is a logic behind them, if you want to get the fact over that Harold Wilson was born in Huddersfield," said a spokeswoman for

the council. "A lot of people would see it if it was on a bridge over the mo-torway, or the loading bay. If the councillors think they are barmy they will say so, and they won't



Your mum is expecting. Open Bouquet Mother's Day Arrangement Rustic Basket Arrangement Mother's Day is next Sunday. Call Free 24hrs on 0500 43 43 43. AN INTERVIORA PLORIST'S LOCAL DELIVERY AREA. STANDARD RELAY ORDERS COST JUST 12.79 EXTRA HR (3.39). AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING OUTLETS: IN SOME CASES EXTRA CHAPGES MAY APPLICATION OF DEST AVAILABLE LOCALLY AS SHOWN HERE

# British

### beaches wrecked by litter

**GLENDA COOPER** 

Britain's heaches are heing wrecked by litter, with twice as much picked up in 1995 as in

Last year more than 305,000 items of rubhish were picked up from beaches around the coasts of Britain. This included almost 20.00 crisp packets, 10,500 drink cans and 9,400 cigarette butts, not to mention sanitary towels. plastic, glass and corton buds,

The Beachwatch '95 survey organised by the Marine Conservation Society and Reader's Digest took place on the 16 and 17 September last year. A total of 202 beaches covering 193km were cleaned by 2,365 volunteers and 196 of the beaches were surveyed in detail. In total the debris weighed an esti-mated 30,000kg, three times as much as in 1993.

The Beachwatch '95 results found that 1,635 items of rubbish were recorded per km surveyed as compared to 977 items per km in Beachwatch '94 and 572 items per km surveyed in Beachwatch 93. Tourist debris alone was up 60 per cent suice Beachwatch '94.

Plastic accounted for more than half the debris recorded. and sewage-related dehris was hetween 11 per cent and 12 per cent of the total. Dehris made from metal has decreased while the proportion of paper-based materials has almost doubled. The most common items found included plastic crisp and sweet wrappers, plastic bottles, caps. lids, rope and cord.

Two Guernsey beaches - Le Port aux Malades, Castel, and Fermain, St Peter Port - came out as cleanest in the survey. They had 0.01 and 0.03 items of rubbish respectively for every

metre of heach. In contrast two Lancashire beaches were the dirtiest with 93 bits of rubbish per metre of beach on Western Shore, Sunderland Point, and an unsightly 166 hits of rubbish per metre at Jack

Scout Cove, Silverdale. Last year the dirtiest beaches were Castle Beach, Dyfed, and New Brighton, Merseyside, and the cleanest were Treaddur Bay in Gwynedd, Porthneigwl also in Gwynedd

and Thorpe Bay in Essex. Some improvement has been seen in the standard of bathing water. In 1995 about 413 out of 464 beaches met the EC mandatory standard on bathing water, 37 more than in 1994.

"It is unacceptable that our children are having to build their sandcastles on little more than a rubbish dump," Kim Winter of Holiday Which? magazine said. "It is time a concerted effort was made to make our beaches a more safe and

pleasant environment." The Marine Conservation Society added: "We would urge people to take individual re-sponsibility for disposal of their litter whether they are tourists or visitors. We would also urge those in local authorities or industry to take action to reduce the problem at source."

Recommendations made by the society include organising awareness campaigns and edu-cation in schools on general waste reduction, disposal and recycling. Incentives should also be increased for manufacturers and retailers to reduce the use of plastics and excessive packaging. The government should also expand the network of plastics recycling schemes and encourage research into degradable alternatives.

Export spur for the shire horse

MICHAEL PRESTAGE

The shire horse can trace its history back to William the Con-queror, but by the 1960s numbers had declined dramat-ically. Now, however, it is en-joying a revival thanks to a surge of interest on the continent and in the United States.

Dillon, Royal and Princess are stabled at the National Shire Horse Centre, Plymouth. waiting to travel to Germany. They are the latest animals in a growing export market that saw more than 100 shires go ahroad in the past year.

ahroad in the past year.

Such is the world-wide interest that enthusiasts of the world's largest working horse will gather tomorrow at the first World Shire Horse Congress at the East of England Showground. Peterborough.

There are 3,000 members of the society world wide of whom

the society world-wide of whom 1,000 are actually involved in the management, buying, selling and breeding of the horses.

Between 1880 and 1930 there were nearly 200,000 shire horses registered in the stud book kept by the Shire Horse Society. But after the Second World War numbers fell until by the 1960s there were less than 2,000 registered animals nationwide.

The work of several breeders in insuring the breed's survival has now been rewarded. John Ward, field officer for the Shire Horse Society, said, "The latest interest will guarantee the fu-ture of the shire horse. It is a wonderful opportunity for the society, with new markets evolving as the quality of the shire horse is recognised throughout the world.

He said horses had travelled to the continent for shows and exhibitions and people had liked what they had seen. Shires have historically heen popular with brewers for pulling drays and German breweries were now using them hecause of their temperament and imposing appearance.

Because there is little demand for shires in Britain, foreign huy-



ers are amazed at how cheap they are, selling for an average of £3,000. But if the interest continues, demand will outstrip supply and prices will rise. The Shire Horse Centre acts

as a clearing house putting po-tential buyers in touch with breeders with horses to sell. In the last two months the export of 20 horses has been arranged. The centre has 35 shires of its Photograph: Marc Hill

own, including King, the world's tallest living horse, who is 19.2 hands (6ft 6in) at the shoulder. But despite offers from abroad, King, a big attraction at the centre, is not for sale.

### World illiteracy 'could be halved'

ROS WYNNE-JONES

World illiteracy could be more than halved by a radical new programme launched yesterday to combat a growing prob-lem faced by 1 billion people, two-thirds of whom are women. Pilot trials have shown the Reflect method to be two to three more times effective than traditional approaches in teaching reading and writing.

Reflect, designed by the char-ity Action Aid, uses no textbooks. Instead, students make up learning materials relevant to their experience. The teaching aids begin as models - of a map of crop planting, for example—which are hullt by the class out of branches, beads, beans and other materials. These are then transferred as "graphics" on to card which teachers use to introduce numbers and the written word:

By the end of the Reflect process, students will have built 20 to 30 graphics representing a detailed analysis of their community. The three pilot studies,

m Bangladesh, El Salvador and Uganda, have shown that this process itself is a catalyst for wider change. In Uganda, for example, discussion around the graphics led to agricultural indi-provements such as terracing and to changes in the commit nity's division of labour, so that men began helping women with fuel and water collection

Sara Cottingham, co-ordinator of Reflect for Action Aid, said that in Bangladesh trials resulted in 77 per cent of six dents who completed the course achieving literacy. This com-pared with 47 per cent literacy in a control group of achieving learners using more traditional methods. Reflect's drep-ontrol group. In Bangladesh th year-long programme cost Figure to set up and run. For 30 sm. dents this would be £6 per year each. "It is a major breits

through," she said. Reflect, which has obtained funding from the World Ba has now been taken up by

### Teenagers send out anti-smoking signals

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

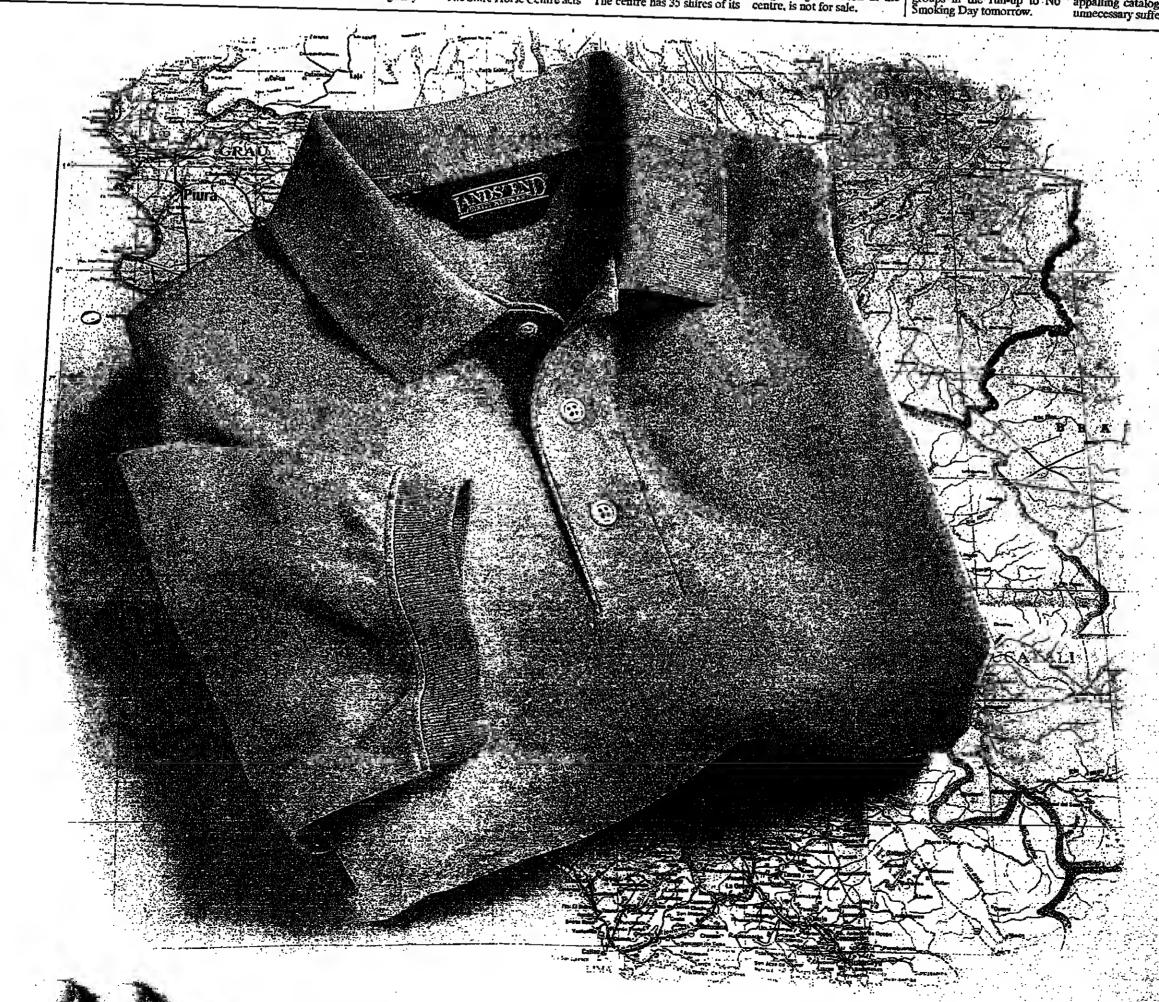
Teenagers are a vital weapon in the battle to stop people smok-ing, according to research which shows that more than 75 per cent have tried to persuade their parents to quit. Even youngsters who admit to smoking themselves say they have

nagged their parents to give up. The survey of 11 to 15-yearteenagers no longer see smoking as a rebellious and trendy act. They are more concerned about the effects on their own health of their parents habit.

Smokers with children are and to have tried to give up, says the survey, published by a coali-tion of health-promotion groups in the run-up to No

Alison Hillhouse, who chairs the No Smoking Day charity. said: "We were surprised by the strength of the children's feet. ings. They see smoking as a bar-rier to a happy family life. Children ... are quite clearly worried about the effect smok ing will have on their own health

... What we can do is help... children to help their parents... In a survey by the National Asthma Campaign and Blue Peter, the BBC children's programme, researchers found that almost three-quarters of 10,000 asthmatic youngsters who took part believe other people's cigarette smoke made their condition worse. Of those, 31 per also more likely to want to quit cent were living with someone and to have tried to give up, says who smoked. Melinda Letts. chief executive of the NAC said: This survey reveals an appalling catalogue of wholly unnecessary suffering.



Ske re-0

GLENDA CTRATE



# orld illiteracy and be halved

### Sketchley shed 500 to re-open in Sainsbury

The desertion of the high street in favour of out-of-town superstores accelerated yesterday when Sketchley, the dry cleaning group, said it was closing 160 town centre shops with the loss of 500 jobs.

Instead it has signed a deal with Sainsbury to open dry cleaning concessions within the larger stores. The group also owns the SuperSnap photo-processing chain and it is plan-ning to cement the trend by relocating a number of branches to superstore sites.

With superstores increasingly offering petrol stations, post offices, pharmacies and florists as well as shoe repair and keycutting facilities. Sketchley's announcement will fuel grow-ing concerns that Britain's supermarket giants are snatching

sales at the high street's expense. Mike Dennis, a retail analyst. at stockbroker NatWest Securities said the exodus from the high street was likely to continue: "Customers can often get a cheaper, more convenient

service by making more pur-chases as part of their weekly shop. You've got dry cleaners and pharmacies. Why not have estate agencies and travel agen-cies, or banks. If this carries on it could squeeze the life out of the high street."

Sketchley said it was taking advantage of consumers' preference for one-stop shopping lo-cations with easier parking and longer opening hours. It said it would also be able to take advantage of established customer flows, Sunday trading and joint advertising with Sainsbury. Sketchley currently has more

than 700 outlets though some high street shops lose money due to high rents and falling customer levels. It will keep 550 of its high street branches while it expands its presence out of town. It already has 29 Sainsbury outlets and now has an exclusive deal to open more in

new and existing branches. Sainsbury defended the deal. "Our research shows that customers will use an out-of-town superstore for many different

How supermarkets shape up in battle for one-stop shopping

Safeway 127 petrol spations, 65 dry cleaners, 83 paramicles 33

tailers. People are still going to go to the high street."

Dry cleaning prices can also often be cheaper due to lower rents out of town. Safeway, which has dry cleaning outlets in 65 of its larger branches, has a deal to clean 5 shirts for £3.49 or two suits for £8.95. Safeway also has 83 pharmacies, 127 petrol stations, 31 post offices and 38 florists.

Some branches of Sainsbury's SavaCentre offer key cutting and shoe repair as well as travel agencies.

It is not clear how much further supermarkets might go. In the US, shoppers can go to the hypermarket for everything from a car to a speedboat. Some have gone as far as building fake "high streets" around the perimeter of their sites transplanting Main Street to the

freeway.
In Britain, however, the Government has said it intends to limit the exodus by curbing planning permission.

In a separate development services. There is room in the yesterday, Tesco increased the

Asda: 118 petrol sta

tions, 32 dry clean-

ers, 72 pharmacies

7 post offices, flow-ers sold in all 207 branches

market for large and small re- stakes in the petrol price war when it extended its loyalty card to money off petrol in its 254 stations. Asda already runs a similar scheme.

Promising motorists that "they cannot buy a cheaper tankful of petrol", Tesco said it will match the cheapest fuel price at other filling stations within three miles of their own pumps or at any other supermarket within five miles.

The main supermarket groups Sainsbury, Tesco. Safeway and Asda have already grabbed over 20 per cent of the UK petrol market by undercutting prices. However, at the beginning of the year the petrol companies fought back when Esso announced that it was dropping its long-running Tiger Tokens promotion in favour of

As part of its campaign Esso pledged to match the lowest prices on offer within a threemile radius. Shell and BP followed and prices fell to as low as 49.9p per litre with the most severe price cuts in the Northeast and Scotland.

The superstores have been making big profits from their petrol retailing operation, and the price war has had a damaging effect on profits. Tesco has been banking about £70m a year, but analysts believe this could be trimmed by up to £12m, with Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway together seeing a cutback of up to £20m.



spokesman said the 280 Brew-ers Payre will rise to 400 by 1997. House, north London, as part of a two-week spring clean Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid Fruitful endeavour: A worker washes the windows of the Orangery at Kenwood

#### Report to blame health bosses

**NICHOLAS TIMMINS** Public Policy Editor

A report dealing with "serious allegations against named in-dividuals" in the former Yorkshire region of the NHS is to be published in full this week by the National Audit Office, it

emerged yesterday.

The move follows an inquiry ordered by Alan Langlands, the NHS chief executive, after Sir John Bourn, the head of the NAO, qualified the region's accounts last year. He declared that relocation packages totalling £450,000, provided to four senior managers - including the then regional general manager and his assistant and to 13 consultants were irregular and outside the authority's powers. The deals involved helping buying out the negative equity on individ-uals' homes after they took jobs with the region.

The inquiry is, however, understood to have raised fresh issues in the region, unconnected to the relocation deals, including doubts about the way a land deal involving a former psy-chiatric hospital was handled, queries about excessive hospitality, and questions about a severance package for one manager. Inadequate records were available of some decisions. When Sir John qualified the

region's 1992-93 accounts in August last year, Mr Langlands made clear he wanted the issues fully explored, declaring that "health authorities must not exceed their powers" and that the "public rightly expects the high-est standards of public accountability and probity in the NHS. Nothing less will do."

He has now passed the report he ordered - which the Department of Health said yesterday contaios "serious allegations against named individuals" - to the NAO for publication with its own commeotary next week. Mr Langlands is to be quizzed on it by the Commons Public Accounts Committee later this month.

### Wacky race to build family pubs

**GLENDA COOPER** 

The Nag's Head and Rose & Crown are history. The future of English pubs lies in Wacky Warehouses, Jungle Bungles and eveo Captain Coconnits as "family friendly" outlets re-

The leisure group Allied

than 7,000 jobs and the development of 250 sites. The emphasis will be on family appeal through "Wacky Warehouses" - purpose-built play barns attached to the group's chain of

Big Steak pubs.
The managing director of ceived another boost yesterday. Allied Domecq Leisure, Martin Grant, said that they were Domecq announced a £150m. meeting consumer demand: expansion over the oext year, "Research has shown that more including the creation of more and more people are going out managed house.

and eating out as a family. This has been aided by the relaxation of licensing laws which include the introduction of children's certificates for pubs."

The group, which presently runs 30 Wacky Warehouses, is planning another 100 Big Steak pubs, most with the family targeted barns attached. Big Steak pubs tend to take five times as much money as the average

alone. A spokesman for Greenalls, which run 20 "Jun-gle Bungle" and "Captain Coconut" playbarns, said they were planning to act on a customer review.

Whitbread, whose family chain is known as Brewer's Fayre, has 60 "Charlie Chalk's Fun Factories" attached. A

# In the world of knit shirts, Peru may be the next Shangri-la.

### Introducing the new Lands' End Interlochen.

If you look in an atlas - even a good sized atlas - you may have trouble finding the Piura Valley of Peru.

It's on the left shoulder of South America, 3° below the Equator, and miles from anywhere. It's even miles from anywhere in Peru.

You wouldn't expect a place so remote to produce a shirt as civilized as our new Interlochen.

But this is where Lands' End - the Direct Merchants from America - had to go for it. In fact, without the cotton grown here -

our new Polo Shirt wouldn't exist. Some cotton, some pickin'

and the people who pick, knit and stitch it -

Cotton has a long history in Peru. In fact, Peruvian farmers were growing it before Peru had a history.

But the cotton in this shirt is a pima cotton a variety that began its career in thesouthwestern United States. Its long staples, or fibres, produce a finer, silkier yarn.

Now, when Peruvian farmers took home a few seeds and planted

them, something miraculous happened. Maybe it was the hot, dry climate, maybe the rich soil. But something in the Piura Valley made the pima staples grow even longer and silkier. (Local farmers said it was "soft as an angel's hair.")

Hand-picked Peruvian pima-

plucked when it's good and ready

It would be sinful to pick such cotton by machine. A machine can't tell which cotton bolls are ripe; it plucks everything, ready

So, our Peruvian friends still pick their pima by hand.

Then they spin it, and knit it into a 40 singles, 6.1 oz. fabric: almost a full ounce richer than our original Interlochen.

They have no word for "hurry."

Time is plentiful in Peru. And our shirt makers use a lot of it making this shirt.

First, they place the fabric on long tables; and if it's striped, they carefully pin it down before cutting. (Some shirt makers skip this: it shows later in ill-matched goods.)

Then, in workrooms surprisingly modern for this neck of the woods, our Peruvian friends patiently stitch.

They double-needle the seams, to lie flatter and look dressier.

They add a tree-top vent at the bottom, where the sides come together. (Don't know why it's called tree-top; but it looks neater, and won't unravel.)

And the neck tape, made of the same soft fabric as the shirt, feels as comfortable as well, as everything else about it. Including the price: from £16.

You could pay twice that -or more-for a shirt nowhere near as nice.

If you want to see it in full, rich colour, look in our latest Lands' End catalogue. Which also contains lots of other classic,



American style clothing, for men and women. It's well worth a little

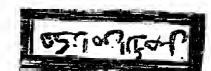
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# Top climbers in Newbury clash

**CHARLES ARTHUR** 

Professional climbers who are helping to evict Newbury hypass protesters from trees are facing a ban from training facilities in Sheffield, their base city.

The move comes as a group of elite climbers joined protesters along the Newbury site to teach them rope techniques to help in their campaign.

The action against the climbers, who have been employed at up to £2,000 a week for "rope access work" to evict people at Newbury, marks another stage in a dispute which is exposing deep rifts within the tight-knit climbing community.

"It's all getting pretty violent and aggressive," said Jerry Mof-fatt, one of Britain's top climbers, yesterday, "You get mates kicking each other in the head because one has been legally sworn in as a 'policeman' and is trying to handcuff the other while up a tree."

Yesterday the Edge, one of Sheffield's two largest indoor climbing facilities, announced that anybody working for the

bury was banned from the centre. "Three of the six names I've been given are members," said Phil Robins, the Edge's director. "I've taken this step because there is strong opposition to what they're doing. They shouldn't be using climbingbased skills to evict people

acting for the environment. The South Yorkshire city's other main training facility, the Foundry, is considering a similar ban. "We will speak to them first," said Moffatt, who is a shareholder.

Many climbers feel that evictions would be impossible without the rope access skills that are being used by employees of Richard Turner Ltd (RTL), of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, Mr Turner said: "I have a core of people who are doing very safe work at Newbury, and I regu-larly get calls from people who want to do the work. In a few months it will all be forgotten.

But Mr Moffatt disagrees, "If RTL didn't have climbers getting people out of the trees, it



### Murdered woman 'thrown in river alive'

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

A woman walking her dogs was drowned by someone who tied her hands behind her back and threw her alive into a riv-

er, it was disclosed yesterday. The attack on Karen Skipper, 34, is believed to have been sexually motivated - she had been stripped from the waist down although a post-mortem examination did not reveal any signs of a sexual assault.

Ms Skipper's body was found on Sunday submerged in five feet of water in the river Ely, near Cardiff. Her hands had been bound with a dog leash and she had cuts and bruises.

A man walking his dog alert-ed the police after he discovered Ms Skipper's distressed pets varting on the river bank.

it was also revealed that the police are examining the mur-der files of Geraldine Palk, 27, who was found stabbed to death in December 1990 less than a mile from where Ms Skipper's body was found. However, detectives believe there are unlikely to be any links. Police believe Ms Skipper was

attacked at about midnight on Saturday as she walked her dogs.
The area is popular with children dog walkers and anglers, but is unlit. She was found face down in the river wearing a jacket, sweater and T-shirt. The rest of her clothes were on the bank. Reg Bean, 63, who found her, said: When I got to the field I

came running towards me I could see they had been sitting on a pair of jeans. Thegan to fear the worst when there was still no sign of the owner and I could see a dark shadow under the

surface of the water." Detective Superintendent Re-ry Ewington said a post-mortem examination showed that Ms Skipper drowned. He added "It is a horrifying marder because we know that Karen was alive.

when she went into the water. It is not known whether she was conscious when she was pushed into the river. Further forensic tests were being carried out to discover if she was raped.

Det Supt Ewington, who is heading the murder inquity, said Ms Skipper was last seen alive at about 11.30pm when the left the house she shared with friends nearby. Police confirmed her former nusband had been spoken to, but not in relation to the murder.



noticed the dogs. When they Karen Skipper Hands tied

#### DAILY POEM

The Knight's Tomb

By Samuel Taylor Coleridge Where is the grave of Sir Arthur & Kellyn?

Where is the grave of shat good man be?— Where may the grave of that good man be?— By the side of a spring, on the breast of Helvel Under the twigs of a young birch tree! The oak that in summer was sweet to hear, And rustled its leaves in the full of the year, And whistled and roared in the winter alone, Is gone, - and the birch in its stead is grown. The Knight's bones are dust, His soul is with the saints, I trust.

Coleridge was the master of the creative fragment so to speak, in the artist's sketchbook and this short pice verse is typical of what poured out of him. It appears section Visionary Fragments' of Coleridge: Selected Po-sen and annotated by Richard Hohnes and published if by HarperCollins. Next year sees the publication of the F second volume of Coleridge's biography, Coleridge Reflections.

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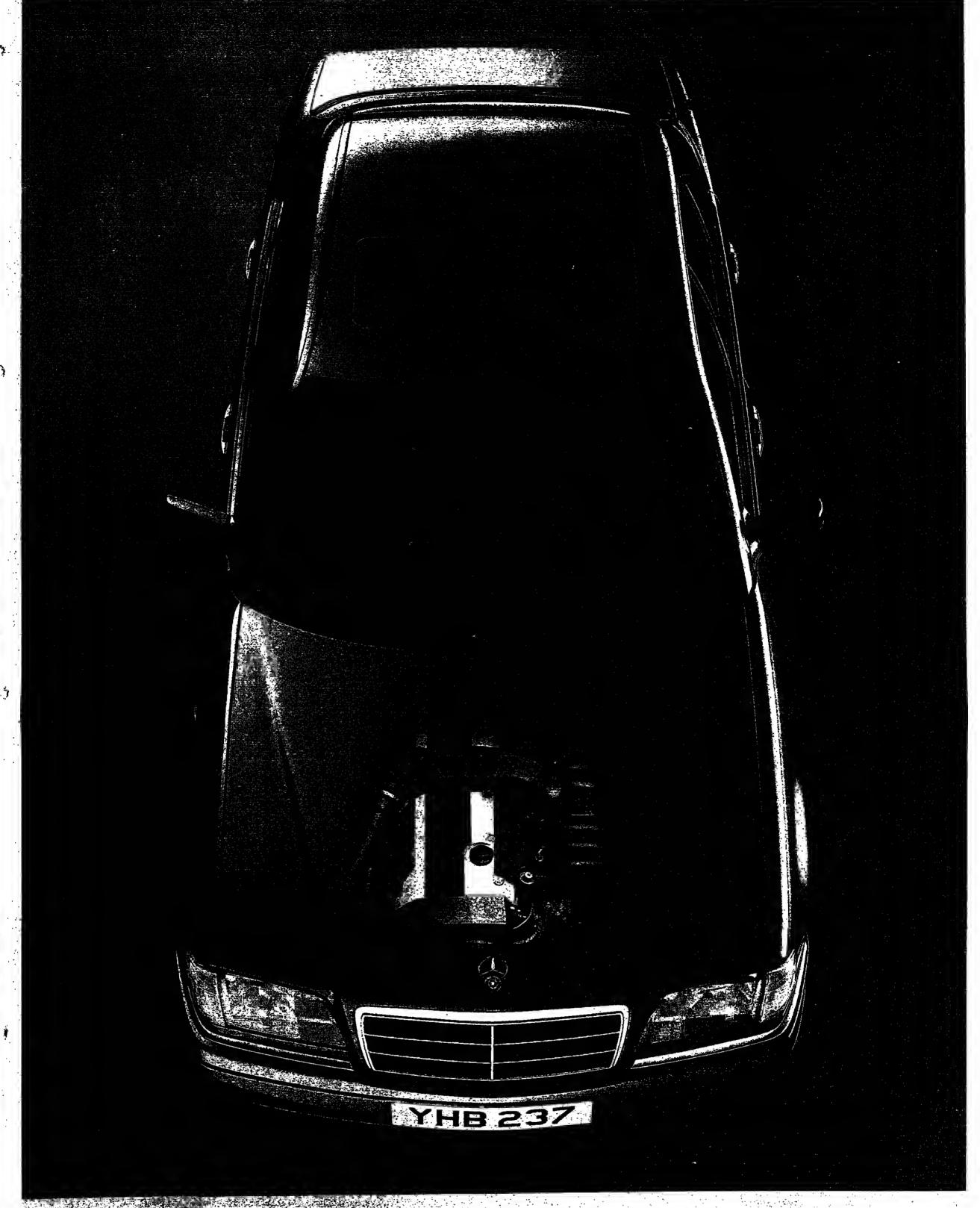


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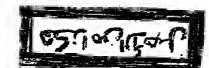
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### Young underclass has 'no hope for future'

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

An underclass of up to 200,000 unemployed young people aged between 18 and 20 has fallen through the safety net of educational and training opportunities and has little or no hope of obtaining work.

The findings of a study funded by the Department for Education and Employment. reveal a growing army of youngsters - nearly one in eight of their age group - who have left school without qualifications and who lack even the most basic skills to force their way into the labour market.

With low self-worth, little price in their community, no hope for the future and feelings of rejection, some young peoto turn to violence, drugs, crime and rioting," says the report.
The youngsters are "unable

stage in their transition into the adult workforce, says the report which was commissioned by the 100-strong network of employer-led Training and Enter-

The study says: "We believe that disaffection amongst young people serves to delay their tran-sition to adulthood. It keeps them dependent either on the state, family or social organi-sations. For some disaffection is due to an absence of a positive work ethic."

While a disclaimer is attached to the report, stating that the findings do not necessarily represent the view of the Department, the conclusions will he given added weight by the fact that the Government funded it on behalf of the TECs. The teport gives no credit for government policy on

Typically the young people vantage of education, training have low personal esteem, they are at high risk of homelessnes commit offences. "Young people feel that adults do not listen to them. They feel ignored

and isolated," the report says. The report, Disaffection and Non-Participation in Education, Training and Employment by individuals aged 18-20, warned that a "growing social cost" would have to be paid unless the problem is addressed.

A "high degree of scepticism" was found among young people and their support organisations about the true purpose of gov-ernment education and training programmes. Most said the programmes lacked long-term opportunities, paid low rewards and provided poor quality.
Out of a population of 1.7
million young people aged 18 to
20. hetween 100,000 and

200,000 are failing to take ad-

and employment opportuni-

silient and willing to accept help," the report says. Strong evidence was found that unemployment among ethnic minorities was "hyper cycli-

cal" so that when the economy is contracting joblessness rose much faster and to a higher peak than among white people. Chris Humphries, director of policy at the TECs' national council, said his organisations

had a strategic role to play in ad-

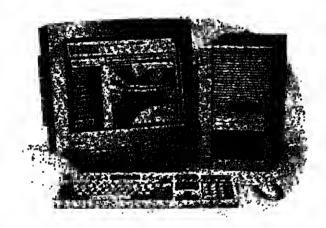
dressing the needs of the young

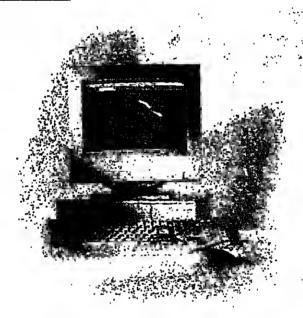
people, but warned that they could not tackle the problems Disaffection and Non-Participation in Education, Training and Employment by individuals aged 18-20, Aspire Consultants, 299 Eccleshall

Road, Sheffield S11 5NX.

Wheels of protest: John Owen outside Labour headquarters in south-east London yesterday where he joined other disabled people to lobby for a greater commitment by the party to disabled rights Photograph: Jane Bake

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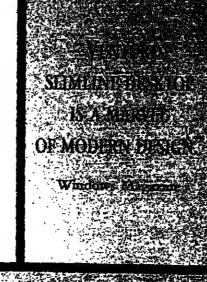
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### Shephard cool on grammar school drive

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, was cautious yesterday about Downing Street policy unit proposals to allow parents to set up new . Labour would take away optedgrammar schools.

She said that the Government was in favour of some had chosen opted-out schools schools selecting pupils but refor their children. Mr Blair and schools selecting pupils but refused to be drawn on propos-als for parents and businesses to start grammar schools using public or private funds.

David Blunkett, Labour's Labour would restore the poweducation spokesman, said: Mrs Shephard is once again having to put John Major back on the leash and is pouring cold water on his plans."

ten, Mrs Shephard's predeces- of grant-maintained schools or, had floated similar plans at Mr Major's behest but they had been dropped through lack by Mr Blunkett, Labour's shad-

Mrs Shephard, who was attending the Grant Maintained Schools Centre annual conference, said selection gave parents more choice and raised standards. She is examining propupils schools can select with-

schools, including grammar schools, were still in place. So far no new selective schools

have been started. tained school heads in Birmingham, Mrs Shephard said out schools' freedom though Tony Blair and Harriet Harman Ms Harman are both sending sons to the Oratory grant maintained school in west London.

Mrs Shephard warned that er of local authorities over freedoms for which you have fought: these freedoms which are producing such excellent re-He pointed out that John Pat- sults - the very characteristics apparently so prized by Mr Blair and Ms Harman - but not ow education secretary. Mi Blunkett is even now busy fighting the attempt by a primary school in his constituency to go

grant maintained." She said Labour plans would mean a reduction in freedom for posals to extend selection by . some local authority schools increasing the percentage of who would find a higher propupils schools can select without her permission from 10 to back by councils. All schools The Department for Educa- admissions policies with local nion said that Mr Patten's pro- authorities - an unprecedented posals for parents, religious intrusion into the freedom of

### Education policy rifts revealed

Grammar schools are back on the agenda - at least as far as the Downing Street policy unit the Secretary of State for Education, almost certainly takes a different view. She said soon after her appointment that she was more interested in the creation of new specialist schools than in more grammar schools.

The news that Norman Black-well, head of the policy unit, is considering a proposal to allow parents and businessmen to set np grammar schools using private finance is the latest indication of the divisions between Mrs Shephard and the unit.

Mr Blackwell's proposal is part of his strategy to put clear blue water between the Con-servatives and Labour Labour is adamantly opposed to the creation of more grammar schools. Mr Blackwell, a former man-

agement consultant with the United States company Mc-Kinsey, was appointed 15 months ago to restore the Government's fortunes. He has won the approval of Thatcherite right-wingers for his free-market views and his radical stand on education and welfare.

Mrs Shephard, by contrast, is married to a teacher, has a background in local government and believes that building bridges between her party and the teaching professions is an important part of her job.

The grammar school proposal is an example of their different approach. Mrs Shephard is not against grammar schools Battle was joined in a cabinet and strongly supports the re-maining 130 as part of the Gov-ernment's "diversity and choice" package. But the introduction of Shephard won. Opting-out for



Shephard, who once declared nursery vouchers "cumbersome ally forced by Downing Street to accept them and a pilot

There was similar disagree-ment over John Major's plan to double the assisted-places scheme. Mrs Shephard was perof the scheme which allows bright pupils from poor homes to attend private schools when Downing Street officials produced figures showing how little it would cost.

A number of the education proposals in Mr Major's Birmingham speech last September are said to have taken her department unawares.

She strongly resisted plans from the policy unit, outlined in the speech, to allow church schools to become grant maintained without a parental ballot. The plans were abandoned earlier this year after fierce opposition from the churches.

Mrs Shephard saw that Downing Street wanted to use the church school issue to accelerate opting out for all schools.

When Downing Street last summer began to examine compulsory opting out for all sec-ondary schools, Mrs Shephard

How to ri

FREE RE

Human rights: Court case casts shadow over conference to highlight abuses by Saddam's regime during Gulf war invasion

### Pilot puts Kuwait in dock over 'torture'

JOJO MOYES

As Kuwait seeks to highlight human rights abuses by Iraq in a conference that began in London yesterday, it has been em-barrassed by allegations in Britain about its own record. Sulaiman al-Adsani, 35, a

British-born pilot, alleges he was tortured in Kuwait by members of the ruling family and later in-timidated by Kuwaiti govern-ment representatives in Britain. Yesterday he hegan a High Court appeal against a ruling which prevents him from claiming damages for torture against

in a test case, Mr Adsani, who still wears surgical gloves for his mjuries, is challenging a ruling that he cannot sue Kuwait for compensation in the English courts because of the 1978 State Immunity Act.

The two-day appeal hearing in the High Court is a potential embarrassment for Kuwait as it coincides with a top level Kuwaiti human rights confer-ence in London. Mr Adsani's



Sulaiman al-Adsani: Claims

QC, John Macdonald, yesterday asked the Court of Appeal to take a "bold step" and rule that UK citizens "should be entitled to have resort to our courts in respect of wrongs committed abroad". He said that state immunity should not be granted has been outlawed".

Mr Adsam flew with the Kuwaiti air force before the Gulf war and joined resistance fighters after being grounded by the Iraqi invasion. He alleges that in May 1991 he was held in a state security prison accused of circulating copies of a porno-graphic video showing a mem-ber of the royal family, Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah al-Saud al-Sabah, in a sexual encounter.

Mr Adsani claims he was re-peatedly beaten by Sheikh Jaber and others and that his head was beld under water in a swimming pool containing dead bodies. He suffered serious burns after he was locked in a room where mattresses were soaked in petrol and set.

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ceived threats to his life from Kuwaiti government agents, ex-acerbating the post-traumatic stress disorder from which he

Mr Macdonald told Lord Justices Stuart-Smith and Ward and Mr Justice Buckley that Mr Adsani's brother had visited the Kuwaiti ambassador in London to be told that MrAdsani had "deserved his punishment" because he was considered a criminal who had hetrayed Kuwait by publicising his case in the Western media. The ambassador, it was alleged, warned that Mr Adsani could be killed.

Mr Macdonald said that when states embarked on torture the "cloak of immunity provided by international law falls away". He argued that only states which acted in accordance with international law were immune from the jurisdiction of the English courts.

If Mr Adsani's claim is allowed to go ahead, it is likely to have consequences for a wide range of other cases against gov-ernments accused of iniquitous

Outside the court, Mr Adsani, who was accompanied by Keith Carmichael, honorary director of the anti-torture organisation Redress, claimed that the Kuwaiti conference in London bad been scheduled to overshadow his case. "It's anamazing coincidence, isn't it? They're cleaning their image, particularly regarding human rights," he said. Sheikh Salem al-Sabah, one

of the conference organisers, said yesterday that he could not comment on the case when asked if he was happy with Knwait's own human rights record in the light of Mr Ad-sani's claims. I assure you there is no comparison between Kuwait and Iraq, be-cause the Kuwaiti people have been kidnapped and arrested by

the Iraqi authorities," he said. Two or three atrocities may because all countries through. have occurred, but the scale out the world accept that torture wasn't comparable. "It's hardly to be mentioned," he added,

Kuwait has often been accused of accentuating the evils of Iraq while seeking to play down its own problems. Em-barrassment may be compounded by a report in yesterday's New York Observer which claimed that the bestselling book The Rape of Kuwait: The true story of Iraqi atrocities against a civilian population, was a piece of Kuwaiti govern-

ment funded propaganda.
The newspaper said that the book which included the widely disseminated claims that Iraqi soldiers tore babies from Kuwaiti hospital incubators and left them to die, was subsidised by the Kuwaiti government. Both the appeal and the

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Test case: Mr al-Adsani claims he suffered serious burns, shown here, after he was

### UN under pressure to continue Iraq embargo

DAVID USBORNE

urwait is pressing the United Nations Security Council to maintain the post-Gulf war trade embargo on Iraq, even if Baghdad is able eventually to provide final proof that it no longer has weapons of mass

The lobbying campaign, led by the Kuwaiti amhassador in New York, Mohammed Abulhasan, reached a new pitch last week, diplomats said, when the Security Council was due to reconsider the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. As expected, the sanctions were renewed.

Kırwait, which has directed its energies at the non-aligned members of the Security Council, including China, is insisting that all the sanctions should remain in place until 600 Kuwaiti prisoners of war as well as

ment are returned or accounted for by Iraq.

Kuwait is increasing its efforts

with a conference in London aimed at publicising the plight of the missing Kuwaitis, taken to Iraq after the 1990 invasion. Guest speakers at the confer-ence, which began yesterday and continues today, organised by the Kuwaiti National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoner of War Affairs, include Baroness Thatcher, the former US President George Bush. the Foreign Secretary, Mal-colm Rifkind, the Gulf war Commander General Sir Peter de la Billiere, and leading mem-

bers of Kuwait's royal family. With little prospect of Iraq escaping the sanctions in the near future, the intensity of Kuwait's lohbying efforts have puzzled some officials in New York. There is no way that the sanctions are going to he lifted any Attitudes towards Iraq have hardened in recent days because of renewed harassment of UN officials in Baghdad trying to verify the annulment of the weapons programmes. Yester-day, UN inspectors were blocked from entering an underground site in Baghdad. It was the

second stand-off in four days.
In the meantime, Iraq and the UN began the second round of talks in New York on implementing an existing Security Council resolution that would allow Baghdad to export limited quantities of oil - up to a maximum value of \$2bn (£1.3bn) over six months - on condition that all the proceeds are used to huy humanitarian supplies.

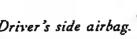
There was muted optimism that the talks might end in agreement. Iraq has previously scorned the offer as an in-fringement of its sovereignty. But if it calculates that the chances of an end to the wider sanctions remain remote, it may be more tempted to accept the deal.



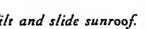
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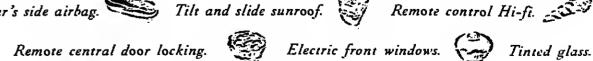
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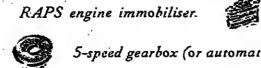
















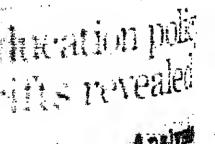
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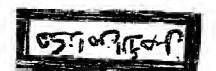
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### Apartheid on trial as Malan faces court

**ROBERT BLOCK** Johannesburg

One by one the 20 men, black and white, stood up in the crowded Durban courtroom to proclaim their innocence and deny that they had anything to do with the death squad that gunned down 13 people, main-ly women and children, nine years ago. They entered their pleas of not guilty in either Zulu or Afrikaans while protesters and a police armed with a water cannon took up positions

outside the court building.

It was a dramatic and fitting opening to what has been billed as South Africa's trial of the

conspiracy to murder 13 people

The trial of the former de-fence minister General Magnus

Malan and 19 co-defendants is

not just another murder case. It represents the first time since

the advent of black majority rule

in South Africa that senior of-

ficials in the former white mi-

nority governments have been

tried for apartheid-era crimes.

Perhaps even more significantly, it marks the first attempt to

examine in a courtroom how the

old regime operated when try-

ing to crush its black opponents.

Zulu-Natal attorney general.

Tim McNally, drove home these

points in his opening statement. "The prosecution will

east a shaft of judicial light to

The prosecutor, the Kwa-

a corner of our history which has hitherto been dark and secret. That process has now begun, it is a process of truth and justice," he told the courtroom. The charges against Gener-

al Malan and the others relate to the murder in KwaZulu-Natal on 21 January 1987 of 13 people, five of them children, during a hit-squad-style attack on the home of an antiapartheid activist linked to President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). The target was said to be a youth leader, Victor Ntuli, who was not at the house at the time of the attack and survived only to he killed by assassins three years later.

the 20 accused - five generals,

a vice-admiral and six senior

army officers, the Zulu Inkatha

Freedom Party deputy secretary

general. Zakhcie Khumalo, a se-

former policemen from the old

are all guilty of either murder

or conspiracy to commit

The case against General

Malan and the officers in the

dock revolves around the pros-

ecution's assertions that they

were the masterminds of a

covert operation which led to

murder.

the struggle against white rule.
The first prosecution witnesses in the case, mainly former policeman, were called to the stand yesterday to describe the crime scene. The triexpected to be both lengthy and

expensive. Mr McNalty defended the cost of the trial saying that no marter what the price justice has to be served in this particular case.

One figure in particular is expected to loom large over the trial, although he may not ever appear in court: Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader. The indictments against General Malan detail Chief In the dock: General Magnus Malan is charged with Buthelezi's role in setting up the paramilitary unit. Court pa-pers indicate that Chief Buthelezi met senior South Mr McNally will argue that African military officials on at least four occasions to discuss the formation of the group. The papers said that the men sought to keep their relationship secret because exposure could damage curity policeman and and six the chief's status as an opponent apartheid-era Zulu homelandof apartheid.

Mr McNally declined to charge Chief Buthelezi when he indicted General Malan and the others in December. Ever since then passions around the case have run high. Yesterday was no exception. A large group of Inkatha supporters outside the court chanted and danced



the massacre. The operation.
Mr McNally alleged, was intended to fuel violence among police used a water cannon to taken over by the Croat-Muslim government today Trading places: A Nato plane lands at Sarajevo airport as a Serb truck leaves the suburb of llidza which is to be

US to aid Bosnian army

The United States said yesterday it planned to give \$100m to help the Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia build an army able to match the Bosnian Serbs, Reuter reports.

James Pardew, US special representative for Military Sta-bilisation in the Balkans, said details of the controversial funding would be made available at a conference in Ankara, Turkey, on Friday.

Several European countries have voiced unease over the US "train and equip" project, say-ing it risked sending the wrong messages and undermining a regional disarmament drive. We want to reduce weapons

in Bosnia," Mr Pardew said, but added a second way of spreading security was to "improve the quality of a future federation He dismissed European wor-

ries, saying the training and equipment would only be available to the federation, the fragile entity on which the long-term success of the Dayton peace accord rests.

He added that a military bal-

ance would help ensure the peace accord lasted beyond the end of the year when Nato's 60,000-strong Implementation Force (I-For) left the country, but admitted US policy was based on "a gamble with the federation". He accepted that the federation has yet to create a defence ministry or merge the rival Croat and Muslim armies. Meanwhile in Sarajevo, Bosn-

- -

sold he you

dere's room.

ian Serb police set fire to their station, fired pistols in the air and threw hand grenades in a drunken departure from the suburb of Ilidza vesterday

Civilians ducked behind cars and French Nato troops crouched with weapons ready as a line of cars full of raucous. Serb police drove around the

town centre waving a Serb flag. Muslim firemen from nearby Hrasnica, escorted by Nato. quickly put out the station fire.
Other fires also burned in Ilidza, one of two Sarajevo suburbs yet to be transferred from

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#### Habsburg seeks right to return ADRIAN BRIDGE have had that he was launching er, Zita. The original law ban- signed the renunciation and ning Habshurg family mem-

Central Europe Correspondent

Having successfully defied a ban on entering his native land, Felix Habsburg, the youngest son of the last Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, yesterday called on the gov-ernment in Vienna to lift all restrictions on his freedom to

Accompanied by his lawyers, Mr Habsburg, now 79 and the most senior member of the family never to have renounced any claim to the imperial throne, declared that since joining the European Union at the beginning of last year, Austria no longer had the right to bar

But he was quick to dash any once, for three days in 1989, to hopes diebard monarchists may

a bid for a Habsburg comeback. "I have no intention of becoming active politically . . . I am too old for that," he said. "I

also have no intention of calling into question [the fact that Austria is now] a Republic."
Felix Habsburg was less than
three years old when his father,

Emperor Karl I. was forced to step down and go into exile following defeat in the First World War and the dismembering of the Austro-Hungarian empire that followed. In the almost 80 years since, he has lived in Portugal, Bel-

gium, the United States and, most recently, Mexico. In all that time, he has only been per-

passed at a time when there were still many in the country who would have supported a restoration of the monarchy and for many years Felix and his two older brothers lived in hope that they would one day receive the call. After the Second World War,

however, most members of the family - most significantly Karl's oldest son and heir. Otto abandoned such dreams and, in return for rencuncing any claim to the throne, or properties, were allowed to visit whenever they wanted.

Unlike his brother Otto, who went on to become a prominent member of the European Par-

even yesterday said he still had bers from entering Austria was no intention of doing so.

Although he never agreed on the ban. Mr Habsburg had little choice but to obey it until Austria's membership of the European Union last year led to a relaxing its border controls with countries to the west. Indeed, his successful entry to the country was by car from neighbouring Germany, from which he was waved through by a borto look at his passport.

Government officials yesterday played down Mr Habsburg's unauthorised visit, which they admitted they had been powerless to prevent. They said they would consider his request to be granted full freedom liament, Felix Habshurg never to travel to Austria.

Monsignor owns up to theft of weeping Madonna

Monsignor Aldo Rosati has always had a weakness for relics of the Virgin Mary. That cer-tainly explains why he was in Civitavecchia at the weekend, together with a 50-strong group of pilgrims from Bologna, lo venerate the plaster statue of the Madonna that hit the headlines last year after it was seen

weeping tears of human blood. And maybe it also explains why, on seeing a copy of the stat-ue in a shrine in the owners' garden, the good Monsignor simply picked it up, put an imitation in its place and walked

off with it stashed away in a bag. Yesterday the city of Civitavecchia, along with the Catholic hierarchy in Bologna. was squirming with embarrassment at the news that a 73-yearold cleric had apparently committed an act of larceny in

the name of religious veneration.
Admittedly, Monsignor
Rosati did not filch the original weeping Madonna, which sits in a special chapel in the local church behind a screen of bullet-proof glass. But he took the next best thing, a copy blessed by the Pope's special adviser on

Deskur, from the garden of the Gregori family which first reported the miraculous weeping. To compound the crime, he also took a stone out of the homemade shrine in which the

It didn't take long for the Gregori family to spot the their since the replacement statue, was badly chipped. The police soon linked the incident to the Bolognese pilgrims, and with-in hours a highway patrol lights flashing and sirens blaz-ing - had pulled their coach over on the main Rome-Milan motorway near Arezzo.

One by one the passengers were asked to open their bags, until eventually Father Aldo produced the statue of his own accord saving he had taken it with the assent of the Gregori family - a story the Gregoris

vigorously deny.

Theft has been a failing of Italian Catholics ever since the city of Venice stole the body of St Mark from Alexandria in the 8th century. Yesterday, the Bologna Curia did its best to defend Monsignor Rosati, saying he had acted in "absolute good faith" and hlaming the media for giving him sleepless nights.

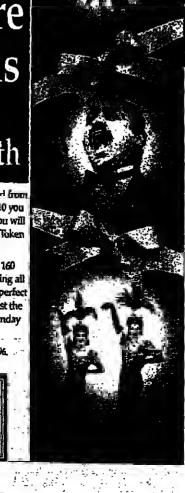


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Forget Sir James Goldsmith the billionaire playboy with a glamorous daughter married to Pakistan's favourite son. Now he has a political mission: to force a referendum on Europe. As Paul Vallely reports, it is more than an eccentric hobby

## Why this man is Major's nightmare

It was a curious collection. In the bowels of a Bournemouth hotel the high priest of par-liamentary Euro-scepticism, William Cash, was throwing a private party for a selected few of the hundreds of true believers who had filled the hotel's ballroom for what turned out to be the biggest of the fringe meetings at the Conservative Party conference.

It was a gathering of the hard right. In the centre of the room Norman Tebbitt was in conversation with Boris Johnson of the Daily Telegraph. In the corner the young historian Andrew Roberts was holding court. But there was no doubt who was the centre of attention. Sir James Goldsmith, the star speaker at the rally. His foray into British politics seems whimsical, a pastime for a rich man grown bored with business.

That was two years ago. Yesterday Sir James bought full-page advertisements in four national newspapers making clear that the ref-erendum idea being floated by the prime minister - on the lone issue of a single currency -would be an "empty gesture". He called for voters to support his new Referendum Party, which is dedicated to a full debate "on the sort of Europe of which Britain wants to be part". Britain has seen oddball fringe parties before. But this is different. The Anglo-French billionaire Member of the European Parliament has vowed to put at least £20m behind his new party, which will put up candidates in every constituency at the next general election where the sitting MP is not committed to a ref-

Yesterday a Tory party memo revealed that Sir James has a staff of 23 who have processed applications from 1,000 potential candidates. of whom some 300 have been approved. "These candidates are credible; some are former Conservatives and are not fringe nutters," it said. More than that, it has a database of 25,000 supporters and is preparing a direct mail campaign of 30,000 letters in 25 constituencies. It has commissioned a telephone canvissing company, is about to take on a major advertising company and is in discussions with the opinion pollsters MORI.

The party is still grading marginal seats to selecting those it will target. It has already decided to concentrate on Labour marginals with significant Asian communities. But its chief ficus will be Conservative seats. Tory MPs in he 90 most marginal seats; those with majorites up to 7,000, are in various states of alarm. They fear that a referendum candidate could cot them 1,000 votes or more and make heir sea more vulnerable to a Labour swing. The secret Tory Central Office memo yesteray predited it could cost the party 25 seats. The exernal threat from Sir James, combined with the internal pressures generated by the Euro-sceptics, is finally beginning to pay off Mr M.jor, under pressure from his party man Brian Mawhinney, i towirds a eferendum to endorse a decision by the Cabnet that Britain should join a single currency Yet Sir James is not a Euro-sceptic with more money and idiosyncrasics than mos. On miny issues he holds radically differest views. What is as yet unknown, and troubling for Mr Major is just how powerful Sir ames could be, not just this week as the. Tory party ecbates what position Britain should take a the forthcoming inter-Govermental Conference on the future of the European Union, but over the next few monns in therun-up to the election. Si James Goldsmith is the British version

of the Nineties businessman-turned-politician. America has Steve Forbes, the multi-millionaire presidential candidate, following the path pioneered by Ross Perot. Italy has had Silvio Berlusconi and France Bernard Tapic. Certainly Sir James is as formidable an eccentric as any of the others. The son of a Tory MP. he started making money while still at Eton, winning £8,000 on the horses. He went on to make an estimated \$2bn as an international deal maker before deciding that the market was a house of cards and presciently selling most of his companies in 1987 - just before

the Wall Street crash. Sir James is also formidably clever. Like many men who have run large business empires, he likes to deal in apparently simple, sweeping generalisations that could either be profound or mundane. Given his track record as an investor, it's probably worth betting on him being profound.

The political philosophy he developed

after leaving business was a reaction against

the globalisation of markets from which he

had profited so hugely and yet which he had begun to suspect would eventually self-

destruct. Three years ago he published *The Trap*, a tract arguing against the received wis-

"Global free trade will shatter the way in

which value-added is shared between capital

and labour ... In mature societies, we have

been able to develop a general agreement as

to bow it should be shared ... Overnight that

agreement will be destroyed by the arrival of

huge populations willing to undercut radically

the salaries earned by our workforces. The

social divisions that this will cause will be

deeper than anything ever envisaged by

Asia threatens not just the economic pros-

perity of the West but its social

cohesion, he warned, echoing

fashionable communitarian

ideas as well as Pat

Buchanan's populism. All

this has gone down terribly

well in France where the

protectionist response to "filthy foreigners;

who pinch our jobs" is far more politically

billion low-wage workers in China and East Major 11 or 12

dom on free trade:

On crusading Anyone who has had the good fortune to succeed in husiness should

be prepared to put up their money for a cause that they believe in."

On romance founding the French author Sacha Guitry): "When one marries one's

mistress, one creates a vacancy."

On the anvironment: "Both fresh and sea water are being poisoned ... and we are

On the sovicenment: "Both fresh and sea water are being poisoned ... and we are living with the threat of up to 40 potential Chernobyls waiting to happen."
On the Government: "It's impossibly mediocre and incredibly dangerous because it has also interest in the Government." It's impossibly mediocre and incredibly dangerous because it has social stated in the content of where it wants to go."
Du conventional economics: "People tell me that things are much better in England, that there are more washing machines and freezers per tamily than there used to be. I leak is an about way of measuring contentment, social stability and prosperity."
On the referendum: England must have the right to vote on things that will change the desting of the nation. To insist that these changes can come about without thought, without debate, and without a vote, is madness. It's sleepwalking into an electric saw."
On Europe. Impossition of a single currency would unleash centrifueal forces that

On Europe. Imposition of a single currency would unleash centrifugal forces that would take Europe apart. I am a passionate European. I am also passionately against Mastricit. My belief in Europe fuels my opposition to this treaty.

On Europe, as it is was an honour to pay low wages. We've gone mad."

has ever been here. He won a seat in the European Parliament having formed a new party. L'Autre Europe, which secured 13 other MEPs. They have formed an alliance with a Danish and a Dutch MEP to form the antifederalist Groupe Europe des Nations, of which he is president.

Adam Smith and David Ricardo. Goldsmith lations. His desire for some strong Euro instienvironmental policies has provoked public Party, whose leader Dr Alan Sked dismissed A few thoughts on life, the universe and everything

spending to campaign against it.

There is no precedent for such a well-

funded spoiler party in British politics and with

an election that may be finely balanced its

influence could be critical. The leading

psephologist Colin Rallings of the University of Plymouth reckons that if Goldsmith wins

just 1.5 per cent of the vote (taking two-thirds

His strategy is as yet unkown. Most com-mentators think Goldsmith & Co might win

This protectionism is anathema to the right in the UK whose economics have long been steeped in the free-market liberalism of is in favour of a European free market surrounded by a tariff wall. He does not share most Euro-sceptics' desire to see Britain as the "Hong Kong of Europe", competing in the world market unfettered by European regututions to supervise joint foreign, defence and fury from Conservative anti-Europeans and the rival Euro-sceptic UK Independence

scats. No wonder that the Prime Minister is calculating how much he will have to concede to spike Sir James's guns.

being left behind by the rest of Europe. in the past insist that the man is an acute strategist. "There will be a strategic goal," said one confidant hopefully. before conceding he had no idea

on among US Republicans could become respectable here. Not since Oswald Mosely has a mainstream British politician flirted with such thoughts, Oth-

ers are more disdainful. Echoing Kenneth Clarke's dismissal of Goldsmith as an eccentric millionaire, who lives in Paris and Mexico, and who should not he interfering in British politics, they describe him as a piqued maverick who just operates on whim. "He's clever and shrewc on one level," said one doubter vesterday, "he's

it as "the politics of Sunset Boulevard practised by an ageing playboy plutocrat".

Nor are the Tory right in sympathy with Goldsmith's attacks on the damage done to formidable intellectually but he lacks political common sense". It will yet be some time before the Third World by Western culture, which reflect his dark green ecological views. The trouble is they cannot afford to pass up an ally who so vebemently opposes the slither to federalism in Europe that they fear and who is prepared to match the main parties' election

on a single currency referendum but lose a more general referendum on European integration as the public's irritation with Brussels would be outweighed by its collective fear of Those who have worked closely with him One possibility, some associates venture, is that the Referendum Party is merely "a tactic in a longer-term strategy to reorientate the right after an electoral defeat and even, possibly, after a split in the Tory Party Goldsmith's aim then would he to bring part of the party over to protectionism so that the kind of dehate which is going it is clear which of the verdicts history might pass. Either way, as John Major charts a way to keep his warring fractious party logether a complication on the scale of Sir James is something he could probably have done without.

ight to retur

### respectable than it

#### It could be you, enough to do. At least, that is the only explanation I can come up with for three if there's room...

the ArtsLottery Beard has a reputed administrative hacklog of three months' saperwork. (There are some 628 applications pending, even though 466 awards were



made last year, according to a report in last week's Arts Management Weekly.). The bold-up is nat because, as bas been reported, the board has been inundated with far

more applicants than anti p ted. It is, I'm afraid, to do with a far more immediate problem in the office fon couldn't swing a half, let alone a while cat between desks, apparently – evel in the classy office assigned to the Arts Council chief, Lord Gowrie. The building in Great Peter Street, near Victoria, s simply too cramped to recruit themuch-needed extra staff.

For thre months now the board has been unable to carry out its recruitment plans (it itended to take m 20 extra bodies) oneccount of the cramped con-ditions. Bt now, I am pleased to say, the situation has been resulved.

"We arrestending the third floor," explains aspokeswoman for the Arts Council (i whose premises the board is located "Education is moving up from the third floor to the fourth and finance is noving unt of the building altogether.We're going to have much more spaceand we are currently advertising the jb vacancies."

#### Lunchs Labours lost?

Methinks new of the Labour MPs who have office in the parliamentary outbuilding Ihrman Shaw South (in Whitehall, ir away from Tony Blair in the Palace q Westminster) do not have of them writing some very banal com-ments in a book chained to the new

vending machines erected in a room off their corridor. I'm sure their con-stituents will be pleased to note that Andrey Wise, the MP for Preston, laments the lack of Snickers and shortbread while Keith Hill, MP for Streatham, is irritated by the loss of his £1 coin. However, one happy customer, John Denham, MP for Southampton Itchen, is prepared to stand out from the crowd, "I don't want to be a creep but I think the range of food is much

I do so hope somebody finds their comments useful.

Wolf in camp clothing

What, no double rooms?

I was startled to see an unlikely symbol of male campness pop up in Ken Rus-

It's a dog's life

sell's production of Salome's Last Dance, shown nn Channel 4 on Sunday night. The film, based nn Wilde's banned play Salome - it has a homosexual subtext - is set in a male brothel. So far so good. But I nearly spilt my cocoa when I spotted a familiar

face, standing in the shadows next in

young gold-painted slave boys. It was none other than Gladiators' most macho, virile fighter – Wolf.

Wolf, who in everyday life goes by the name of Michael Van Wijk, thrives on his image as the aggressive gladiatur most likely to terrify the kids and hully the other competitors on the Saturday night show. I imagine his role in the Russell film, made in 1987 in which he wears a leather G-string and minces

when I rang the Gladiators press nifice to inquire about it, this seemed to be the case, "This is a private matter for Mr Van Wijk," said a spokesman firmly. I didn't like to remind him that the programme had been broadcast to the entire country the previous evening.

#### **Booming ridiculous**

So what happens when the UN Secre tary General. Boutros Boutros Ghali, puts the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, on a panel of "internationally eminent persons" to plan a major UN conference on the environment later this year? This panel met in New York yesterday and our globe-trotting Secretary of State decided to get there by the fastest, most expensive and most ungreen-possible method, Concorde.

**Eagle Eye** 



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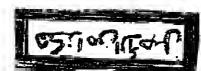
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### Thorny bouquet for small business

The Prime Minister is worned about small husinesses, as well he might. given the political mess his ministers have made of the issue in recent weeks. His initiatives vesterday were a welcome sign of interest in an vital part of the economy. But it did not get near offering a seri-ous new approach to fostering small businesses amid the uncertainty of the Nincties and so it will not shore up the Tory party's battered relationship with the swelling entrepreneurial classes.

Recent ministerial pronouncements on small businesses have been clumsy. First the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Hescltine, appeared to endorse late payment of bills. Then persistent questioning from Labour's Barhara Roche revealed that government departments were delaying payments to contractors. Finally last week we discovered that members of the Cabinet were squabbling over Michael Heseltine's desire to remove employment rights from anyone working

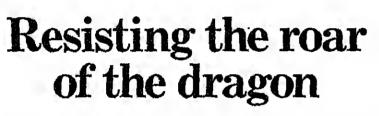
Given this backdrop, the Prime Minister's soothing words of affection for small businesses were politically timely. His strongest new recommendation - to shame husinesses out of late payment is a sensible measure. If companies are forced to publish their payment record alongside their accounts, some may be embarrassed into settling up on time. The Government should consider going further. Giving firms a statutory right to claim interest on late payments, or making it easier to pursue their debtors through the courts might prove more effective.

Beyond this however, there was little in Mr Major's speech to resolve the contradictions in the Government's treatment of small businesses. The Prime Minister restated his determination to "bin rules"

which burden businesses. Yet at the same time some policy changes in the last few months will do exactly the opposite. The Asylum Bill, for example, will force all employers to investigate the immigration status of their workers.

Moreover deregulation is not always good for business. Mr Major was right to resist Mr Heseltine's proposal on employment rights: allowing small firms to indulge in discrimination is not the way to promote competition. Government has a positive role to play too. Small businesses have genuine and distinctive needs. Their relatively small turnover and insigificant market power makes them more vulnerable to the changing hehaviour of the economy, larger firms and the government. They need distinctive measures of support. Small businesses have serious trouble finding the skilled staff they need and they rely far more than larger companies on government training and education policies to help them solve the

Finding a coherent and effective approach to the problems of small busi-nesses is important to the Government's political position. Small business owners have long been a traditional bedrock of support for the Conservative Party, But the composition of the self-employed is changing. In the past, owners of small businesses were predominantly the sons of other small business owners. Changes in the labour market, including higher unemployment, downsizing and sub-contracting, mean that the self-employed today are a more diverse and less predictable group of people. Warm words about traditional Tory values, and the importance of the market are no longer sufficient to capture small business votes. Mr Major will need something more substantial to win them over.



Every sensible analysis suggests that Peking will rattle its missiles at Taiwan but that it will not risk a conflict.

However, this is not a moment for the West to rest on its laurels. Indeed, it is vital that it responds to China's bullying threats by laying down its own, measured marker of how it will react. For what is at stake in this escalating war of words, gestures and threats is not only the outcome of Taiwan's forthcoming elections but the terms under which China will exert its growing nower in Asia, after the demise of its ageing leader Deng Xiaoping.

The attacks on Taiwan seem inseparable from the power struggle over the succession to Deng. For thousands of years Chinese leaders have stood, and sometimes fallen, on their ability to uphold the "Unity of the Motherland". With Deng Xiaoping clinging to life but not quite to power, the supreme-leader-in-waiting. President Jiang Zemin, is understandably anxious not to show any sign of weakness towards the notion of an independent Taiwan. He has to contend with, and propitiate, ageing generals, flexing their ageing

muscles and ageing artitudes. The forthcoming first open presidential elections, which will confirm the mandate of Lee Teng-hui, who is formally committed to independence,

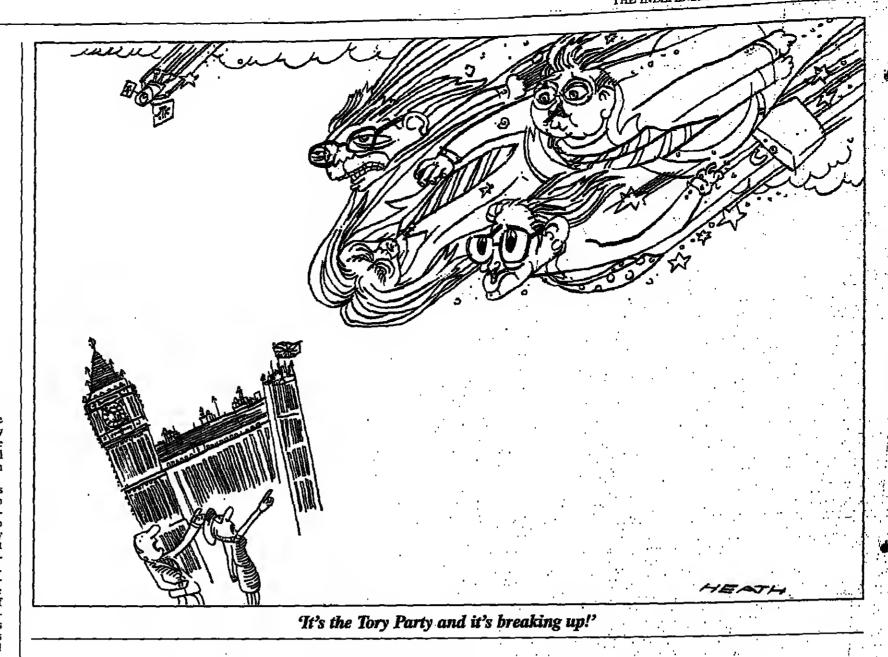
When the world's two greatest military powers manoeuvre menacingly in a narrow stretch of sea around a disputed island only the loohardy would argue that there was nothing to be worried about.

As we have seen in Hong Kong, China regards democracy as an infectious disorder best kept far from its horders. Meanwhile, Mr Lee's campaign for a Taiwanesc seat at the UN is calculated to annoy Peking.

In the context of this vicious quarrel between potentially volatile neighbours the Clinton administration was right to strengthen the US naval presence in the area. It may also diplomatically remind China that the West has no "selfish" interests in Taiwan and will not encourage a desire for independence, yet it could not stand by if Taiwan were attacked. Taiwan may not be recognised as a separate state but this warmongering is not an issue internal to China. Taiwan is vulnerable precisely because it is caught in that limbo land short of full statehood. It is convenient for the West that it should be kept there, for that eases Western trade with China. In return, Taiwan has every

right to expect our support.

Most importantly, with Western investment running at £65m a day, the West must remind China that war and instahility could seriously hamper investment. The days are gone when Peking could behave like a surly dragon, occasionally popping its head out of a cave of selfimposed isolation to roar defiance. The West must not escalate the tension by intervening directly, but it must make its presence felt for as long as China coninues to threaten.



#### - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Cloning a nightmare for sheep - and farmers | Don't rush into a referendum

Sir: While the science media rejoice over the Nuffield Council's green light for pig-human organ transplants and eulogises the creation of cloned sheep at Edinburgh, animal welfarists despair (reports, 7 March, 11

What of the suffering of the breeding sow - her uterus extracted so that the transgenic piglets can be "born" into a ster-ile bubble? What, of the pigs themselves, reared in ultrahygienic laboratory conditions, when in a natural environment they would spend over half their time rooting in the soil with their highly sensitive snouts.

As for the sheep, each of these cloned lambs is the result of four separate surgical operations on the donor and recipient ewes. Surgery for science and profit, not for therapeutic or even prophylactic purposes. And now we discover that the researchers some of the cloned lambs suf- a few days of birth. fered from "giantism" and con-genital abnormalities of their

internal organs. Nor should we forget the farmer's nightmare scenario - a field of cloned sheep all identically vulnerable to the same strain of disease.

attributed to scientific research

Is it not time that we stopped and asked ourselves not. "Can Despite years of "research"—costing millions of pounds and count-

this he done?" but rather, "Should we be doing this at all?" JOYCE D'SILVA Compassion in World Farming Petersfield, Hampshire

Sir. While vague and implausible references are made to possible research are clearly the profitseeking farming and pharmaceutical industries, which are rejoicing in the idea of producing animals who carry more "lean meat" and less fat, and are more resistant to disease.

Yet ewes are already struggling for life as they are pressured to produce not one but as many as five lambs, and to give birth as early as December. Surely creating ewes with less protective fat can only diminish their chances of survival. Already 4 million lambs (15-20 per cent of the failed to publish the fact that total born | die every year within

> Animal Aid Tonbridge, Kent

Sir: Professor Albert Weal's comment (report, 7 March) that "xenotransplantation promises much" has a hollow ring. Not one Why is it that a moral worth is xenograft patient has survived more than a matter of months since the first operation in 1964. Despite years of "research"-cost-

less animal lives - vivisectors are no closer to making this Franken-stein science a reality. Animal-tohuman transplants are always fatal for both human and animal victim.

A single xenograft operation costs over £150,000 now, taking funds away from real public health initiatives. The millions wasted on xenotransplants could more usefully be used to encourage human donors to come forward. It would only take another 2,000 donations every year from a population of 56 million. A human organ must give a human-being a better chance of survival and it removes the risk of diseases crossing the species barrier - a horror story waiting to happen.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals London NW1

Sir: Your welcome to the life-sav-ing pig (leading article, 7 March) comes a little late. The animal has been of service to sick humans for

geons were using pigskins in the treatment of serious burns. The animal's carefully treated skin was found to have several advantages over the man-made dressings. Pain was reduced, so too was fluid loss and shock; there was less chance of infection and a much greater chance of quick healing. ROBIN LAURENCE

more than 20 years. By the early 1970s plastic sur-

Sir. The Conservative Party's forward that either the electorate response to the perceived threat of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party is hasty and mis-

Hasty, and clearly an overreaction, is the Government's present flirtation with a referendum on the issue of a single cur-rency (report 11 March). This will certainly not be enough to buy off James Goldsmith. He wants a referendum now, allowing the public a retrospective vote on the Maastricht treaty and Britain's relationship with the European Union, not a hypothetical promise of a referendum if and when Britain joins the single

There is no evidence yet put

Sir: If a person provides employment to a worker for one day then the employer is seen as doing the worker a good turn and is in no way under an obligation which represents it believe that to that worker. One might workers should be aded by omassume that if the employer provided employment for a longer period (say five years), then he would he seen as doing the worker an even better turn and not under any obligation to the

all sorts of responsibilities, some Beaconsfield, Bucks | very onerous indeed, thus dis-

Blair offers peers

is crying out for a referendum or the electoral impact of the Referendum Party will be anything greater than that of the UKIndependence Party at the las elec-

The Government should take clear and decisive control of its Enropean policy rather than appeasing other political parties or even its own dehard Eurosceptics, who will not be happy until Britain has eft the European Union.

The writer is the president of the

#### Unfair burden on employers

employer is expected to assume

couraging the hiring of staff ("Tories clash over than to crap job rights", 8 March.

If society, and the overment pensation when losing ther jobs then the government and taxpayers should foot he bill, it fact such an arrangement would cost the taxpayers nothing. The conomy would be stimulated thus increasing tax revenues while That is not the case. The reducing the cos of unemployment pay.

R LG SIMMERSON London W4

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#### The real transport choice is a choice not to travel

that the next Labour govern-ment will crease "an infrastructure that will give people trans-port choices" (letter, 7 March) is core transport problem, which is the enormous growth in total movement of both people and goods, by whatever means of

For example, the average item from producer to household than it did 10 years ago. Similar every field of production, all rep- new big central one.

Sir: Graham Allen's assurance resented by proportional that the next Labour governincreases in lorry mileages. People also travel ever further to work, to shop, and in their leisure port choices" (letter, 7 March) is laudable in itself, but ignores the core transport problem, which is sonal freedoms and choices. Most is the result of planning decisions. both by public bodies and by manufacturers, distributors and retailers. Tune and again the decision is made that it will be of food travels 50 per cent further cheaper to close down a factory (shop, office, school, depot, court-house, blood transfusion changes have occurred in almost centre) and let people travel to a

Of course, it is not cheaper for the country. The cost is simply transferred to someone else, such as the government or council that builds the roads, or the customers and workers who have to spend more time, money and nervous energy travelling, and all of us who have to suffer the resulting congestion and degraded environment.

A sensible transport policy must start by asking not how we move people and goods about but how we can avoid having to. CHRISTOPHER PADLEY Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

#### Scottish doctors doubt MS drug

Sir: The Scottish Office Department of Health has not decreed that beta interferon may not be prescribed by Scottish neurologists, nor would it ever do so ("The price of health and the doctor's dilemma", 11 March). Whether or not to prescribe a licensed preparation has to he a clinical decision by the doctor

concerned. What did happen was that I received a letter in November last year, signed by all 25 consultant neurologists in Scotland, expressing the view that "there is not enough evidence to recommend this drug to MS patients in routine clinical practice mainly because the only published ran-dom allocation trial of the drug did not show that it produced any reduction in cumulative disability.

The same view was subsequently expressed by the directors of public health of the 15 Scottish health boards, and, I understand, is shared by many neurologists working in other parts of the UK.

Dr R E KENDELL Chief Medical Officer Department of Health The Scottish Office St Andrew's House,

### a mess of pottage

Sir: Tony Blair ("A lifetime of lunch without peer", 11 March) asks hereditary peers to give up their speaking rights in return for keeping lunching and dining rights at the House of Lords. He is literally asking us to sell our birthright for a mess of pottage. This does no more than confirm me in my opinion that he is a smooth man.

Were he to ask me to sell my hirthright for a House of Commons elected by a voting system that makes it truly representative of the people he might get a dif-ferent answer. After all, that is my birthright too.

Earl Russell House of Lords London SW1 The writer is Liberal Democrat spokesman on Social Security

#### War on crime

Sir: There is a terrifying corollary to Lord Taylor's very persuasive argument (report, 7 March) that criminals who risk mandatory life sentences for repeating certain crimes may be tempted to kill their victims where those are the sole witnesses. It is that previously law-abiding people may try to kill real, or imagined, assailants in pre-emptive self-defence. Crimmals may therefore go more prepared and/or armed to kill their

> CLIVE GRIFFITHS London N16

#### **Enfants terribles**

Sir: The idea of child-free zones (Simon Calder's travel column, 9 March) sounds wonderful. Air flights are a good starting point, but the principle could be extended to other areas of life; a ban on parents with children in supermarkets at certain times of day springs immediately to mind. ADAM WATSON

#### Education means skills for life

Sir: Your report "A-leve exams will be made parder to pass" (6 March) will not make excouraging reading, either for future sixth-former or for these interested in the country's posperity. Examinations oughtto be rig-

orous, But to rank subjects in degrees of difficulty is inhelpful. and only widens the raditional academic-rocational divide. Other important questions concerning Alevels neel to be dis-cussed. The two key issues are failure and drop-outrates. High-quality guilance well

before post-16 choice must point out the credible sternatives, including the GN/Q route, which many more admissions tutors and employes are welcoming.
In addition, skillsmust com-

plement academic access. The acquiring of skills nust begin well before 16, as should the realisation by pupils of all ages that they have resposibility for their own learning. he lifelong learning process has to begin in schools. Successful companies regard such an approach as essential in future exployees.

Head of Educational Services The Industrial Society ··· srmingham

#### German answer

Sir: At last, the definive reasons for the League of Naions failing in the 1930s (Andrew Marr. 7 March). Had all in Errope learnt German and seen he superior ity of Germany's rulture and economy, war coud so easily have been avoided.

NICK REES Gwernafield, Clwyd

Post letters to Letter to the Editor, and include sdaytime telephone number. (az. 0171-293 2056; e-mail: lettrs@... independent.co.uk) letters may Quenington, Gioncestershire be edited for length ad clarity.

### Just a minute, am I repeating myself?

The other day I was in the fover of Broadcasting House in London's Upper Regent Street, headquarters of BBC radio, and I picked up a blue piece of paper that said: "Furmy You Should Say That. A new panel game all about the use of language. Chairman. Alan Coren. with panellists Barry Cryer, Willie Rushton, Kevin Day and Lorelei King, Monday 18 March, 1996, For FREE tickets send SAE to ..."
Now, this may well turn out to be an

excellent programme, but that was not my immediate thought. My immediate reaction was one of sorrow and sympathy for the people who have to think up new ideas for quiz programmes when, quite obviously, there aren't any. and also new guests for panel games when there don't seem to be any

Somewhere upstairs at the BBC there is a room with a committee in session behind locked doors (not to preserve secrecy but to stop them escaping) whose members have a day in, day out discussion that goes some-

thing like this ...
I say, Controller, I read somewhere the other day that people are getting interested in the correct use of language again. Why, even the Reith Lectures this year were all about it. Why don't we have a new quiz on the use of language?"



"Because, for God's sake, it's been done, Remember Wordly Wise?" "Well, let's do it again." "It's been done again. Word of

"No. I don't think that was a quiz game. That was a serious programme, actually looking at language."
"Bit of a waste of time having a

serious programme on a subject that might be better used for a quiz. don't you think?" "Well, sir, the fact is that all possible subjects for ouizzes have now heen used up. We've done films.

radio, quotations, music, business,

books, history ..." "History? Yes, sir. There's a quiz on at the moment where historians have to answer questions on a subject such as Alfred the Great or Queen Victoria. History as gossip. Rather good.

"Oh, is that a quiz programme? I Jonathan Dimbleby started awarding heard that. I thought it was Start the points for answers? And deducting Reek withous Melvyn Bragg, Well, it certainly explains why they were awarding each other points, which doesn't ever happen on Start the "On the contrary, Start the Week is

all ahout point-scoring. Did you not hear Tony Parsons and Mehyn Bragg the other week? I remember thinking that I had stumbled into a new panel game that I had devised and then forgotten about ..."
"Quite so. Incidentally, will some-

one remind me of the difference between a panel game and a quiz game?" "Yes, sir. In a quiz game it helps to

answer the question correctly, A panel game is one where the answers don't matter as long as they are funny, and where nobody cares about the points. The News Quiz is actually a panel game, for instance. "That can't be true. I think the answers are very important on The

News Quiz. I have heard much better

political points made by people such as Jeremy Hardy on The News Quiz

than any of the faffing around on Any Questions. Which, despite its name, is not a quiz or a panel game."

Do you think it should be? Do you think it would come back to life if

points for evading the question?" "Excellent idea. But we've got a political quiz on Radio 4 already."
"Have we? What's it called?"

"I can't remember, but it's got Austin Mitchell and Julian Critchley on it. Or if it hasn't, it should have ... "Tell you what. Why don't we have a quiz programme about itself? It would be called, As I Was Saving, and the panel would be asked questions in the second half about what had been said in the first half."

"It wouldn't be the first quiz about itself. There's that weird programme with Irene Thomas and all those other people which is so clever and inbred that they have to guess what the question means before they can applaud themselves for answering it."

"I say, Controller, why don't we have a quiz programme about the use of language? The Reith Lectures this year - oh no. I've said that already ... "Oh No. I've Said That Abready, Actually, that's not a bad idea for a

programme. A game in which you are

penalised for repeating yourself ... "We've got one. It's called Just A Minute. "Well, how about ..." The discussion continues.

### comment

### Go on Tony, make my day

The creation of more public holidays and other such wheezes mean more to the voter than the PSBR

Tony Blair's furrowed-brow lec-tures about government's hard choices and the need for strict priorities are, no doubt, sensible. But they are not cheerful. They add to the impression that life under Labour would be, in too many ways, just like life under the Conservatives. So Mr Blair has asked his shadow cabinet for "no cost/low cost measures" which could be passed early without clogging

A pejorative way of putting it is to say that he wants gimmicks. But gimmicks, or pleasing wheezes, should not be underrated. Outside Northern Ireland, John Major has probably had more positive inflnence on people's lives by setting up the National Lotter and decreasing much house the tery and deregulating puh hours than with the rest of his legislation put together. The idea that politicians might do things to make people hap-pier may be novel, but it shouldn't be rejected out of hand.

So what might such a list include? Policy wonks are wonking and think-tanks are bubbling. MPs, such as Chris Mullin, have published their thoughts. But this is a game anyone can play. Here, hoping to kick off a conversa-tion, are 10 reforms I'd like to see.

Dynamite Night. The National Lot-tery rules would be changed to ensure that, every month or so, some money raised would be used to blow up a hated building. Most British cities are disfigured by some architecture that actually makes people feel worse when they pass it. Examples can even be found in cities such as Edinburgh, which are otherwise near-perfect, and in smaller gems such as Ludlow, Norwich and

ITHE.

Friend into a referender

Shrewsbury. Destroying them would raise our spirits and give a greater sense of popular control over urban environments. The buildings would be chosen by local ballot. Any that attracted, say, 20 per cent local support would, however, be saved as a safeguard against anti-modern philistinism.

Speaking French. Making a closer union of the peoples of Europe is not something that will be accomplished by politicians. We will be bound together by shared work, inter-mar-riage and travel, or not at all. There are no EU proposals from any British party that would do half as much good as trying to ensure that all children left school truly flust in methor left school truly fluent in another Euro-

pean language.

Trafalgar Square should be pedestrianised, as the first stage of a plan to close other chunks of central London to cars. Global warming will ensure a ready market for open-air eating in the capital's prime central spaces. (But avoid the pigeon en croute.)

The February problem. We don't have enough public holidays and those

we do have are clustered together. The real need is for something to cheer up February, that grim runt among the months. St Valentine's Day helps some people, but depresses many others. It should be our celebratory Mardi Gras, a day when we try to slough off our national puritanism. reveiling in public bawdry and wild parties. (This is a very non-new Labour thought, but that, perhaps, is part of new Labour's problem.)
National Art Scandals. Britain's



We need to cheer up February, that grim runt among months

hidden from view, either in government offices or in gallery basements because there isn't enough space to show them. They should be sent around the country, to smaller gal-leries and the foyers of company offices, to be properly enjoyed. Some would be stolen. But since no one sees them at the moment anyway, that

wouldn't matter too much.

The Wildwood. This is the name of a dream, the remaking of truly wild forest in northern Scotland. Wildwood was described by Neal Ascherson as "something shaggy and trackless ... a green universe into which men and women can go to become lost children in a fairy story". Only slightly more prosaically, various ecological trusts and conservationists are hoping for Millennium Commission money to replant parts of the ancient Caledonian Forest. But great art collections include hundreds of paintings and sculptures that are could do. It could finally make the

Cairngorms a World Heritage Site. It could end the oddity of Scotland having no national parks. Above all, it could set limits on foreign ownership of land, as other countries do, to keep the prices of estates in reach of environmental bodies, and our dreams.

Domesday Britain. We could collect, community by community, a vast account of Britain in the year 2000, organised by volunteers. Unlike the original Domesday Book, it wouldn't list our cattle, churches and pastures, but our hopes, fears and private achievements. Personal testaments would be stitched together to make a patchwork "living novel" of the British now. This would rest in local libraries to he read - or forgotien - by future generations.

Going Asian. The twinning of towns and villages is fine so far as it goes. But that is a merely European affair. If this is to be an Asian century, should we not twin Britain with an Asian nation? South Korea, with its 45 million people, would be an obvious candidate. We have a lot to learn from them, and they from us. It's poorer than Britain but, with growth of around 8.5 per cent a year, is catching up fast. Some may object about the Korean habit of eating dogs hut given the gross over-sup-ply of domestic dogs here, there are

surely deals to be done. Honours and Dishonours. The most popular part of the British honours system has nothing to do with Knight Grand Crosses, Baths or Empires; it is the Today programme's man or woman of the year award, But, like the other honours system, this is in grave danger of being discredited by the Conserva-

tive Party, widely suspected of organising phone-in campaigns. Instead, Blair could come to a deal with the BBC: it would organise a proper hallot and, in return, he would give the winners and runners-up seats in the House of Lords. This would be democratic, cheerful and costless.

Mark. That last reform could also. of course, produce new Tory peers. But such Labour generosity cannot be taken too far; a list such as this ought to include the odd act of random political spite - something, as it were, to even up the score for the abolition of the GLC. One very popular such mea-sure would be to strip Mark Thatcher of the baronetcy he is due to inherit from his father. Dehretts tell me this would only be possible if Parliament declared him guilty of high treason first, which might seem a trifle harsh. Can intensely irritating the nation be properly regarded as treason? I think, on the whole, it should be, and the expense of parliamentary time is something we could put up with.

This has been a short personal list. Yes, it excludes many weightier measures Labour has promised. Yes, it deliberately skipped round the most contentious issues and yes - all right it's frivolous at the edges. I also tried to avoid banning things because politi-cians are already over-addicted to that.

So it is only a start. But there is still a little more to radical politics than the PSBR, and Labour is in danger of taking itself too seriously, of becoming the buttoned-up, "can't do that" party. It is a depressing prospect: rather than suhmit, we should bomhard it with

ments in the treatment of patients in

coma, simply enabling them to stay

alive, are resulting in more causes of

spontaneous recovery, even after sev-

As anyone who has read the case studies of Oliver Sacks will realise, the hrain has a remarkable ability, even

when severely damaged, to find a mode of functioning and to recon-struct a personality that together make internal sense to its owner.

Some of the recent accounts of

patients who have come out of long-

lasting comas provide a powerful con-

firmation of that facility. These peo-

ple may have been apparently

unhearing and unfeeling for years, yet

when they emerge, we learn that they

heard what was happening, they felt

Improvements in

eral years.

### Rats fearing a sinking ship

A herd instinct among investors accounts for yesterday's stock market jitters, says Robin Aspinall

Yesterday's abrupt fall in the UK stock market has been met with a number of this economic "explanation".

This economic "explanation" explanations ranging from the conventional to the weird and wonderful.

There are those who swear by such unlikely influences as sunspot activity and astrology. Take, for instance, the fact that the Chinese Year of the Rat has just begun. Everyone knows that the Year of the Rat is "ruled by the cold of winter and the darkness of night" and that it is typified by wild market fluc-tuations. You have heen warned.

More routine is the recognition that markets are driven by investor psychology. In late 1986, the FT-SE 100 index hurst out of the doldrums to produce a rally of 62 per cent hefore it peaked in July 1987. We all know what happened after that: the stock market crashed.

That 62 per cent is one of the magic numbers discovered by a 13th-century Italian monk called Fibonacci. It seems to have a remarkably powerful and widely recognised significance for the way that markets work. Take, for example, Nasdaq, which is now the busiest US stock market. On the 23 Fehruary, the Nasdaq index touched a level that represented a 62 per cent gain from the important low that it reached in mid-1994. It has not regained that level since. A few people at least may have read the worst from the omens. When the markets in the US grew shaky, those who are prepared to combine the musings of a 13th-century monk with the implications of a Chinese year sign would not have been surprised.

These weird theories aside, however, the reason for London's weaknesses is in fact painfully simple. London fell because Wall Street fell. But, that merely begs the next ques-tion: "What went wrong on Wall Street?"

One theory is that the problem lies in the US economy: it appears to be doing too well. Bill Clinton is probably over the moon. After all, it isn't every day that you discover - as he did last Friday - that your econ- employment stanistic was pubomy has created more than 700,000 new jobs. That was roughly double the increase that the markets had been expecting. Then, apparently in defiance of commonsense, the US stock market went into an instant tailspin.

There is, however, a rational explanation, namely the fear raised by the figures, that strong growth could cause the economy to overheat and so

sounds plausible, but there are one or two problems with it. Above all, the evidence of a rebound in growth and inflation is far from convincing. Other economic indicators suggest that the 705,000 figure is a freak.

The real answer may well lic closer to the markets' home. The trouble is that at the beginning of the year the markets had all reached the same conclusion at the same time: growth would be subdued; inflation would not be a problem; the dollar would be strong; interest rates would continue to fall.

Most of those assumptions

The world and his dog started buying bonds like there

was no tomorrow were prohably right. That was not the problem. The problem

arose from the unanimity. When investors form a view they quite naturally act on it; and the natural thing to do was to buy bonds, especially US bonds. The world and his dog started buying US Treasury Bonds like there was no tomorrow. This enormous appetite for

bonds naturally drove their prices upwards. But, when a bandwagon is that full, there is sure to he trouble. There is no one left to get on board, and without that additional demand, prices begin to sag. That is exactly what started happening during January. All around the world, bond prices began to fall. Only gently at first, but that was enough put immense pressure on those people who had bought bonds with borrowed money. They were forced to sell, adding to the downward pressure. And, by last Friday, the bond markets were full of investors who had become worried about their investments. When that US

lished, they were ready to panic. So the truth behind the selloff may be almost as bizarre as the wacky theories involving the Chinese New Year. What the last few days have demonstrated - yet again - is that it is as easy to lose money on the markets by being right as it is by being wrong.

The author is chief economist at stockbrokers Panmure Gordon.

## Between the living and the dead

We don't understand the brain, so how can we decide whether coma patients live? By William Hartston

A brain-damaged accident victim who had been in a coma for two years uses his little finger to tap out a message telling the police that his injuries were the result of an assault. Another man, unconscious for six months and almost abandoned as brain dead not only makes a complete. recovery but demonstrates that he had been aware of what was happening to him throughout the ordeal. An American policeman, shot in the head in 1988, suddenly speaks after seven and a half years in a coma.

Any one of those cases could have come from the plot of a feature film. vet each was the basis of a news item in the past three weeks. Together they show how much we have still to learn about the functioning of the human

#### Coma patients have felt injections and understood what was being said to them

hrain, and emphasise the clusive nature of any understanding of consciousness. Most of all, they show how difficult is the decision to allow a person, apparently devoid of all mental or physical sensation, to die with dignity, when there just might be an infinitesimal chance of a miracle

We all have a good idea of what consciousness is: an awareness of one's own existence, and an ability to react to one's surroundings. Unconsciousness, however, poses more of a problem, with a continuum stretching from sleep through anaesthesia and coma to persistent vegetative state and hrain death. All unconscious states are characterised by insensitivity to one's environment; what differentiates one such state from another are the degree and cause of that insensitivity and the ease with which it may be reversed.

When we are asleep, a loud noise, pain, or even the sudden silence of a clock stopping may be enough to wake us up. We clearly have a low level of perception of our environ-ment – somehow aware of it, but not enough to register anything unless it hreaks though a certain barrier level. Anaesthesia, or hibernation in ani-

mals, is a deeper level of unconsciousness. Induced by chemical changes - whether natural or through external intervention - they are states in which any amount of shouting or injury may produce no reaction. But the state is still reversible, again by chemical changes, natural or induced.

Any recovery from a coma, however, may he quite unpredictable.



Characterised by a complete lack of body has departed, but how can we

reaction to external stimuli, and often associated with hrain injury, a come is the deepest state of unconsciousness. The brain continues functioning sufficiently to keep the body alive, but perhaps no more. No voluntary movement, no indication of any reaction to the outside world, no

consciousness. And when a patient emerges from a coma, sits up, blinks and yawns, this may still not be a sign of anything approaching a full recovery. In a per-sistent vegetative state, or PVS, a person may sleep and wake, apparently as normal, and show a full range of normal reflexes. They may even smile and grimace, yet show no signs of reacting to the outside world, or of any high-level mental processes going

As the state of coma demonstrates, the body may continue living, while the person normally inhabiting that tell whether that departure is temporary or permanent?

Geoffrey Lean, the environment correspondent of the Independent on Sunday, recalled recently his own time in a coma after an operation had gone wrong: "I spent much of the time either in total hlackness or in a strange, white, humpy world, as if sur-rounded by rumpled sheets. I could not see my body, but I could feel myself being pulled around on the bed ... I could also feel my wife, Judy's, hand in mine, our fingers entwined together. I could hear her telling me that I was being hrave, that the chil-dren were all right, that their schools and my office were being supportive.

I could not work out what she was

her presence was reassuring."
There was no entry into Geoffrey's world for his family or medical staff. Nobody could know whether he felt

doing in this strange new world, hut

anything, recognised anybody, or knew anything of what was happen-ing to him. Nobody knew if he was mentally dead or alive.

Montage: Mark Hayman

The concept of brain death - as verified by no reflexes, no breathing and a flat electroencephalogram - bas recently been extended to the idea of brain-stem death - similar but with a possible reading on the EEG. Yet some of the recent remarkable cases of recovery have followed readings that would have justified, under the current rules, turning off all life-

support systems.

The most celebrated recent case was that of Mark Newton, reported last month. His mother had given permission for his machine to be switched off and his organs donated before suddenly changing her mind, hurling herself across him and begging doctors to keep the life-support running. His first word on regaining consciousness was "Mum". Improve-

#### treatment are resulting in more spontaneous recovery

the injections, they knew when their loved ones were holding their hands and they understood what was being said to them.

These moving tales also underline how we can have little hope of coming to grips with the nature of unconsciousness until we understand the physical basis, within the brain, of consciousness itself. And that, despite the numerous theories of consciousness that have been advocated in recent years, still seems a very long way off indeed.

Last weekend, when Geoffrey Wildsmith tapped out that message to the police, two years after he had been found on a train in a pool of blood, with part of his skull and brain missing, it also confirmed another important lesson. Every coma patient is a different individual. There are, at our present state of knowledge, no

general rules. This all adds up to perhaps the most difficult moral dilemma facing the medical profession today. Every patient in a coma is different. Every one needs an individual decision.

The parents of the Hillsborough stadium disaster victim Tony Bland had to fight legal battles to let their son die after 47 months on a life-support system. Other court cases have been fought over relatives' desires to have a patient kept alive against the judgement of the medical profession. The cases of the past three weeks only serve to highlight the dilemma. They are life or death decisions at their most stark, and we do not know enough to be sure we are doing the

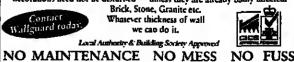
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Invitations to appear on Desert Island Discs have always been accepted with great alacrity. How nice it is to be interviewed in your own right, a person deemed to be worthy of par-adise, and to invite the listeners into rour own "private" world. But such invitations will now be considered with concern after Sne Lawley's grilling of the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon

As the sea washed over sundrenched sands, Gordon's paradise quickly became a nightmare. His marital status was uppermost in Sne's mind. Why was he not married, she asked persistently. Straying into the realms of tabloid prurience, Sue overreached her remit. After all, it was not

### Gordon's desert island nightmare

ANOTHER VIEW

Michael Cashman

had sought to discriminate against

homosexuals in his economic policies,

as if Gordon's chosen book had been Kama Sum. Coupled with preoccupation with Labour's economic plans

it was obvious that this presenter's mind was on the sensational headlines that would follow the discussion and any subsequent revelations. Brown dealt with her questioning admirably. The wider question still begs to be

ily values the centrepiece of his polit-

ical platform. He is an elected politi-

cian concerned with the governance of this country: all we ask of him is a clear pair of hands and a good hrain. answered: when is it ever right to ques-tion a public figure about their sexu-When a politician seeks to restrict the civil and human rights of a sexual ality? In Brown's case, the answer is minority, then their sexuality is quite simple. He has never made famdirectly relevant. If Gordon Brown

then issues pertaining to his sexuality would be pertinent. Would we countenance, for example, a closeted Sec-

retary of State for the Environment denying lesbians and gay men suc-cession to tenancy rights? I don't think that we could. It would amount to advanced hypocrisy on the part of the politician. Equally, it would be hypocritical if restrictions on the rights of lesbians and gay men to serve in the military were imposed by a Secretary of State for Defence who was homosexual. In these theoretical circumstances, we would be witnessing

a politician enjoying the "freedom" of the closet at the expense of those lesbians and gay men who were "out". Once we have achieved legal equality and social justice for lesbians and gay men, then questions of sexuality will start to become irrelevant. Every

one of us can then get on with our lives and we will be able to rid ourselves of the diversion of sexual grouping. However, for this to happen both Labour and the Conservatives will have to commit themselves to affording equal citizenship to everyone.

The writer is an actor and a former chair of the Stonewall Group, which campaigns for legal equality and social

### obituaries/gazette

### Marie-Hélène de Rothschild

Marie-Hélène de Rothschild was the wife of Baron Guy de Rothschild, head of the famous banking family. She was well known in France for her lavish hospitality and in particular for some magnificent balls she gave in the 1960s and 1970s at the Château de Ferrières. They were attended by the gratin of European society and by such luminaries as Jane Birkin and Serge Gainsbourg, but she drew the line at Aristotle and Jackie Onassis.

Her greatest triumph was the Proust Ball in December 1971, in celebration of the centenary of the reclusive author's birth. Some 350 guests sat down to dinner, with 350 more for a late supper in the dining room. bedecked with palm trees and ferns and squares of trellis. They are consommé, quenelles of lobster, duck stuffed with foie gras and foie de canard, decked with pineapple, small mirabelles and a delicious prune jam The feast ended with pistachio bombe glúce, and it was all served on pleated mauve table cloths, adorned with mauve orchids. Torches lit the way to the château and chandeliers hung out of the windows.

The guests came in costume and were photographed by Cecil Beaton, adorned as the photographer Nadar, Beaton set up a special studio for the occasion, taking portraits of Marisa Berenson as the Marchesa Casati. Audrey Hepburn, Princess Grace of Monaco and Elizabeth Taylor. The Duchess of Windsor, described by Beaton that night as "a mad Goya", was bedecked with a large blue feather. At dinner, as she turned her head, the feather dipped into the consomme or gravy and then brushed Baron Guy across the face.

In 1972 there was a Surrealist Ball at Ferrières. The pud-

ing on a bed of roses, the whole thing made of sugar. The invitation was printed back to front. the reversed writing transposed on to a sky by Magritte.

Described as a legendary hostess whose name was the password among le wut Paris, the Baroness was also a considerable fund-raiser for medical research, and a patron of artists, musicians, movie stars and conturiers. She could also take credit for

the advancement of an employee of Rothschild Frères.

contributing to his later success in politics. Baron Guy chose to keep his business and private entertaining strictly separate, his husiness friends being restrict-One year one of the guests was the manager of Rothschild Frères, Georges Pompidou. In the words of Baron Guy, Marie-Hélène "immediately detected the amazing richness of the human being behind the man who arrived for his first weekend, a bit awkward, reserved to the point of shyness, moreover a businessman (a priori suspect). uncommunicative ... " Marie-Hélène's mother described him as possessing "one eye a vicar's, the other a rascal's." Pompidou hecame a close friend of the Rothschilds. He had already worked for de Gaulle. The dual influence propelled him

forward. Later Baron Guy took credit for Pompidou influencing de Gaulle in France's entry to the Common Market, "Pompidou had become 'European' as a result of his experience in working at the rue Laffitte".

Marie-Helène was the daughter of Baron Egmont van Zuvlen, a rich diplomat from one of the oldest families in the Netherlands, in the service of the King of the Belgians. Her mother was Egyptian. Her fading was a life-size model of a ther owned the magnificent Château de Haar in Holland.

Marie-Hélène was educated at Marymount College in New York, where she considerably developed the spontaneity she had inherited from her mother. Following graduation she came to Paris and married her first husband, Count François de Nicolay, a breeder of thoroughbreds in the Sarthe region.

They had one son, Philippe, and

shortly afterwards divorced. Her second husband was Baron Guy de Rothschild, head of Rothschild Frères, the largest private bank in France, but later nationalised. They met at a gala in Deauville at which Edith Piaf provided the cabaret and he presented the prize of two cases of Chateau-Lafite to the Nicolays. The Baron was much struck by the young countess. Eventually they were married

For him too it was a second marriage. The union was controversial because the bride was Catholic and he was Jewish. She was obliged to obtain a papal dispensation to annul her previous marriage and remarry outside the faith. He was forced to relinquish the presidency of the Jewish community in France. This was the first non-Jewish wedding for a head of the Rothschild clan, though, interestingly Marie-Hélène's grandmother was the daughter of Salomon de Rothschild, Guy's great-uncle. Their son, Edouard, was raised

The Baron described his wife as having "a fabulous appetite for life, emotions always at their height, a spontaneity with a thousand facets, as everchanging as the sea. And charm, which defies description." Ros-tropovitch, the cellist, said that she had a heart "that was bigger than all Russia". Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor were great favourites in the late 1960s. His description of Marie-Hélène was sharper than most:



"She is quite an ugly woman with a large booked pose and an almost negroid mouth but very beautiful blind eyes, and the vivacity of her manner and her machine-gun delivery in both languages makes her very attractive.

She was indeed rather gaunt. The explanation was that she was a sufferer from arthritis from as early as 1962. Her husband wrote: "It may seem in-credible that her exuberance is all too often shattered by pain." Lately her illness confined her to her bed for some years. The de Rothschilds were

both keen race-goers and breeders (with 50 mares at stud). She had her own colours from 1953, Their horse Exbury won the Arc de Triomphe and the Coronation Cup. Shantung came 3rd in the 1959 Derby, and Baron Guy won the Eclipse Stakes with Tropique. His best horse. Vieux Manoir, won the Grand Prix de Paris. The Queen visited the Rothschild stud privately on her visit to Normandy

They restored the family château, Ferrières, and reopened it in 1959. The proper-

ty dated back to 1855 and was designed by Joseph Paxton, the architect son of the Duke of Devonshire's famous gardener. It was hailed as "the finest example of Second Empire style". King William I of Prussia declared: "What an incredible

palace! A king would not have dared to build it. It took a Rothschild!" Almost all the Rothschilds lived in a manner dubbed the "Rothschild style" - a mixture of Napoleon III objets d'art, comfort and luxury, with precious miniatures ad rare books mixed in with family photos, plants and flow-ers. Eventually in 1975 the Rothschilds gave the château to the University of Paris, and settled in a smaller house on the estate (of which, after initial reluctance, Marie-Hélène even-

tually became fond). They also lived in the historic Hôtel Lambert on the Ile-Saint-Louis in Paris, where their great friend Alexis de Redé had a splendid apartment. When the Hotel was for sale in 1975 Marie-Hélène persuaded Baron in the space of two hours?"
They restored the palace to its 17th-century glories. In 1981 President Mitter-

rand nationalised all the French banks and for a time Baron Guy went to live in America, but Marie-Hélène remained at the Hôtel Lambert. A life such as hers could

scarcely be relived in the 1990s. In Marie-Hélène the Rothschild fortune was more than matched by imagination, inspiration, supreme good taste and generosity. She was like a child in a dream-world and opened its possibilities to many who will never forget it. Baron Guy recognised this in the dedication of his memoirs; "To Marie-Hélène, without whom things would only be just what they

**Hugo Vickers** 

Marie-Helène van Zuylen de Nuvvelt, patron of the arts and racehorse owner: born New York City 23 August 1931; married first Count François de Nicolay (one son, marriage dissolved), 1957 Guy to buy it; "Do you feel Baron Guy de Rothschild (one young? ... Young enough to son); died Ferrières, Seine et days that meant they were change the course of your life Marne, France 1 March 1996.

### Lydia Chukovskaya

The writer Lydia Chukovskaya stood firm in the face of totalitarianism. In the 1960s she raised her voice in defence of the young but already wellknown poet Joseph Brodsky and she protested against the trial of two fellow writers, Andrei Siniavsky and Yuli Daniel. In the 1970s she stood up for the writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn and the nuclear physicist Andrei Sakharov, who were being harassed by the KGB. The Soviet government regarded her as a thorn in their side.

She was born in 1907 in Heisingfors in the Grand Duchy of Finland, part of the Russian Empire. Her father, Kornei Chukovsky, was a writer much oved for his children's stories. Chukovskaya's first joh was as an editor at a children's publishing house in Leningrad. She published her first short story, Leningrad-Odessa", under a en-name, A. Uglov. At about this time she met and married a young Jewish physicist, Mikhail Bronstein In 1937 he was arrested on a fabricated charge and disappeared to the gulag where he was executed.

By the time of Stalin's death in March 1953 Chukovskaya had become an established literary figure, one of the senior editors on a liberal monthly, Literatur Naya Moskva. Her real breakthrough had been a short story, "Sofia Petrovna", which she wrote during 1939-40; circulated in typescript form in literary circles in the late 1950s. it appeared in Paris in 1965 un-der the title "Opustely Dom" ("An Abandoned House"). It was banned in the Soviet

Union. Her second important book, Spusk pod Vodu ("Descent Into Water"), again never appeared in her own country. It was published in Paris in 1972. Written in the form of a diary, it describes the impossible situation of the poetess Anna Akhmatova and the satirical writer, Mikhail Zoshchenko, who in 1949 were ferociously attacked and then thrown out of

In 1964 Chukovskava energetically protested against the trial of the 24-year-old lewish poet Joseph Brodsky, who was nevertheless sent into exile. She also wrote a series of letters in support of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the 1970 winner of the Nohel Prize for Literature; but these appeared only in the West, in the 1976 Munich almanac Literatur und Repression. In 1974, together with the physicist Andrei Sakharov, she protested against Solzhenitsyn's deportation Shortly afterwards she defended Sakharov against the KGB's harassment.

Lydia Chukovskaya's activides were regarded as dangerrus and she was closely watched by the KGB. Only her established literary name and the fact that she was well known in the West, added to her father's stature as a children's writer, protected her

from arrest.
Her most important work was her two volumes of conwersations with and diaries about Anna Akhmatova. Enitled Zapiski Akhmatovo' ("Akhmatova's Notes"), the first volume appeared in 1976 and the second in 1980, both in Paris. The books were banned in the Soviet Union

In 1978, again in Paris, Chukovskaya published sever-al volumes of poems, written between 1936 and 1976, under the title Po Etu Storonu Smerti ("On This Side of Death"). These were in part her autobiography, containing strong personal overtones: about the loss of young love, her husband, and the suffering of her people.

From the 1960s onwards she lived between a Moscow flat and her father's dacha in Perekelkino, a village about 20km from Moscow and home to a colony of writers including Boris Pasternal: It was there that she

Jeanne Vrouskaya

Lydia Chukovksya, writer, poet, editor, born Helsingfors, Russia 24 March 1907; married Mikhail Bronstein 1934 (died c1937): died Perekelkino, Russia 8

ter a short three years, Com-

munism came and missionaries

had to leave. The Guinnesses moved to Scotland, where many

students and prospective mis-sionaries tasted their hospital-ity, until they were able to

return to East Asia, to serve in

Malaysia and then in Taiwan.

In the early Seventies. I had

the privilege of travelling

around Taiwan with Henry

Guinness, who was directing the

work of the OMF there. Then

in his sixties, he had lost none

of his get up and go. "Getting

up" might be four in the morning and "going" might be trav-elling all day, perhaps snacking

on lychees bought through the

On one occasion in China, he

arrived at an inn late at night.

Preparing to sleep, he heard

bandits in the next room dis-

cussing how to dispose of his

body, and how much they could

get for his boots. Opening the

door of his room and moving

slowly towards the toilet, Guin-

ness scanned the high wall

for a foothold, sprang up and

leapt over into the fields. De-

spite a chase by the bandits, he

made it to another village four

miles away. Henry Guinness's bravery

and love of adventure was bal-

bus window as we went.

#### Alan Brown

It is difficult to imagine any football manager being harder or straighter than Alan Brown. No club in his charge ever lifted a major trophy, yet he remained a hugely respected, if somewhat idiosyncratic member of his profession, his name a byword for truth, frankness and rigid discipline. Yet while the "Iron Man" im-

will be forever synonymous with this complex Northumbrian, his contribution as one of soccer's most thoughtful and innovative tacticians should never be overlooked. Neither should his sheer passion for the game; he once described football, with no hyperbole intended, as "one of the biggest things that happened in Creation. The son of a painter and dec-

orator. Brown went to grammar school and had a yen to be a teacher, but as one of a large family during the Depression. did not have the opportunity for further education. However, he was blessed with natural athleticism and, after revealing immense ability as an unyield ing centre-half in local football. ioined Hudderstield Town in 1933. He did not settle contentedly with the Terriers and left to spend two years as a policeman before returning to make a few dozen senior appearances for the club before the Second World War.

However, it was after the war. having been transferred to Burnley, that Brown made his most significant impact as a player. In 1946-47, he skipnered the Lancastrians to promotion from the Second Division and led them to the FA Cup Final, in which they were defeated 1-0 by Charlton Athletic, In 1948, a £15,000 deal took him to Notts County, but the 34-year-old played only a ty and industry were compulsory



handful of games before ending his playing days.
Thereafter, Brown opened a

restaurant in Burnley, but re-turned to the game he loved on the suggestion of Stanley Rous, then Secretary of the Football Association. In 1954, after three and a half seasons as a coach with Sheffield Wednesday. Brown moved into management with his former employers. Burnley, upsetting several senior players who were not keen on the prospect of being hossed by such a tower of moral rectitude. Unsurprisingly, Brown was unruffled by this undercurrent, and set about his new task with evangelistic zeal. To him, such virtues as integriand he saw to it that his club espoused them, too. Indeed, when work started on a new outdoor training centre, he helped to dig the foundations himself and volunteered" his players to do likewise. A few hands were blistered and probably a few

egos as well. However, Brown was never solely a disciplinarian. His deep fascination with strategy was evident in the mesmerising range of free-kick routines he instituted, and in his enterprising use of short corners, both of which were much copied elsewhere. Also, as the Turf Moor club was not blessed with bottomless coffers, he was committed to the introduction and development of youngsters, a policy which he was to pursue vigorously elsewhere in later years and which did much to pave the way for future Burnley triumphs.

Brown was not to be part of those, though. After keeping the Clarets in the top half of the First Division for three seasons. be left for Sunderland, who had been suffering scandals over illegal payments to players and who were languishing near the foot of the table. He was scathingly contemptuous of such abuse and, despite the Wearsiders being relegated for the first time in their history in 1958, Brown both ensured that their act was well and truly cleaned up and gradually revitalised their playing fortunes. He spent far more time in a

after several near misses, led them to promotion in 1964. Then, to the consternation of many fans, he left to take over at Sheffield Wednesday, an ambitious club with what was then the most sumptuouslyappointed stadium in the land. Brown took the Owls to the

track suit than a lounge suit and,

1966 FA Cup Final, which they lost after leading Everton by two goals, but League form tended to be mediocre or worse and in February 1968, he returned to Sunderland. Another relegation in 1970 was followed by two failures to win promotion and the sack in November 1972. After that, Brown coached in Norway, a prelude to a retirement hlighted by ill health.

He will be remembered as a man who believed that rules, both for football and life, were sacrosanct. For example, he always refused to sanction material inducements to parents of promising youngsters, at a time when that practice was widespread, even if it meant losing a possible future star. His contempt for the moral bankruptthat spawned the recent bung" scandals must have been total. His career never attained the dizziest heights, but his personal standards did. Emphatically, Alan Brown was not for turning.

Ivan Ponting

Alan Winston Brown, football player and manager; born Corbridge, Northumberland 26 August 1914; player for Huddersfield Town 1933-46, Burnley 1946-48, Notts County 1948; Coach, Sheffield Wednesday 1951-54; Manager, Burnley 1954-57 Sunderland 1957-64, 1968-72, Sheffield Wednesday 1964-68; died Barnstaple, Devon 8 March

### **Henry Guinness**

Henry Guinness had a pioneer spirit that motivated the whole of his life as a missionary. He was one of 200 new missionaries sent to China in 1931 by the China Inland Mission, and drew crowds to his preaching by playing a cornet in the villages. The instrument went with him to a Chinese Church conference in England in 1993.

He had been born in Kaneng, in central China, where his parents had moved just after the notorious Boxer Rebellion in which 75 missionaries and countless Chinese Christians were slaughtered. The Guinness family is noted for achievement, chiefly in the fields of banking, brewing and missionary work. Henry Guinness came from the Grattan line of the family, who tended towards mission work, and his father had moved to China in 1900 for this purpose. His mother came from

a noble Swedish family. Illhealth separated him from them early. Dust and dirt and Yellow River floods combined to make life in Kaifeng "nasty, hrutish and short". The death of his father when he was 17 made him look at the purpose of life, and led to his resolve to become a missionary.

Back in Kaifeng for the China Inland Mission (known today as OMF International), his work among boys received im-petus from his fascination with anything that worked, from pinhole cameras to aeroplane propellers. But a cholera epidemic, an earthquake, and repeated crop failures also called for an empathy with a tortured community, whose lives were made worse by the Japanese invasion of 1933.

Conscious of his need for a co-worker, Guinness prayed for one to be sent. That night

Armed Forces Parliamentary

Scheme held yesterday evening in Speaker's House, London SW1. Mr Nicholas Soames MP, Minister of

State for the Armed Forces, Dr

David Clark MP. Shadow Secretar

of State for Defence, and Sir Neil

a burglar broke into the house. Guinness confronted him in his pyjamas, sat him down, and taught him from the Gospel of St John. The man professed to become a Christian, and inthe morning Guinness went out, left the man to get the hunch, and trusted him with the house. This man became the co-worker.

In 1938 Guinness married Mary Taylor, a doctor, and the young couple had to cope with famine, drought, locusts, raging inflation and war. When parents abandoned their children for lack of food, the Guitmesses rescued those they could. Two of their own three sons died in Honan Province, and the couple had to fice from war the day after the second son died.

The years from 1945 to 1947 were spent in Dublin, where Guinness represented the Chi-na Inland Mission in Ireland. In 1947, the Guinnesses returned to China, playing a key role in work among students. Thou-sands of students were converging in Nanjing at the time, following the 1947 Intervarsity Conference, and the Guin-nesses ran Bible study classes until indoctrination began. Af-



anced by a deep faith, and a caring heart that continued until his last days. His wife died in 1993 and he is survived by his son, Oswald, a well-known author and Christian apologist, who lives in the United States.

Denis Lane

Henry Whitfield Guinness, missionary: born Kaifeng, Honan Province, China 18 April 1908; married 1938 Dr Mary Taylor (died 1993; one son, and two sons deceased); died Pembury, Kent 17 February 1996.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

#### Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

MANSFIELD: Peter John, peacefully at Warwick Hospital, on Saturday 9 March, Noted Arabist and writer, He died surrounded by his family and friends and in the arms of his part-ner of 35 years Luis Canizares, Small family service on Friday, memorial service to follow in London, Dona-tions, if desired, to Medical Aid for ans, 33a Islangton Park Street

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MURRAY: George Jain. 10th Duke of Athell. A memorial service for the late Dake of Athell will be held on Friday 12 April 1996, at 3pm, at Durakeld Cathedral,

IN MEMORIAM

BARR: Frederick, died on Thursday I

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES &

#### Birthdays Sir Antony Acland, Provost of Eton. former diplomat, 56; Dr Giovanni

Rudolph Agnew, former group chief executive, Consolidated Gold Fields. 62: Mr Edward Albee, playwright, 68; Mr Ronald Alley, artist and former Keeper of Modern Art. Tate Gallery, 70; Mrs Virginia Bottomley MP, Secretary of State for National Hertage, 48; Mr Norbert Brainin, violinist, 73; Sir Geotfrey de Bellaigue. Director of the Royal Collection, 65: Mr Willie Duggan, rugby footballer, 46; Mr John Gross, writer and ediior. nl; Mr Norman Hogg MP, 58: Mr Philip Jones, former principal, Trinity College of Music. London. 68: Mr Anthony Loehnis, a former ricechairman, S.G. Warburg & Co. 60; dr David Mellor QC MP. 47: Miss Liza Minnelli, actress and singer, 50; Mr David Mimaric, interior decorator, 57: Mr Roland Movie, barrister and former government minister, 68: Sir Tom Normanton, former MP. 79; Mr Patrick Procktor, painter, 60: Mr Rod Richards MP, 49; Mr Ralph Shapey, composer and conductor, 75; Viscount Trenchard, director, Kleinwort Benson, 45; Miss Gudrun Ure.

Agnelli, chairman, Fiat SpA, 75; Mr

operatic soprano, 59; Mr Paul Way, golfer, 33; Mr David Oliver Williams. former general secretary, COHSE, 70: Mr David Wilmot, chief constable, Greater Manchester Police, 53: Miss Googie Withers, actress, 79.

#### Anniversaries

Births: Andre de Lenoure, landscape architect, Iol3: Thomas Augustine Ame, composer of Rule, Britannia, 1710: Kemal Atatürk (Mustapha Kemal), soldier and statesman, 1381; Vaslav Fomich Niiinsky, dancer, 1890; Jack (Jean-Louis) Kerouae, novelist, 1922. Deaths: Cesare Borgia, cardinal, soldier and politician, killed, 1507; Frans van Mieris the Elder, painter. 1681; George Westinghouse, im entor, 1914: Anne Frank, digrist, at Bergen-Belsen 1945. On this days the Bermudas became an English colony, 1609; the United States Post Office was established, 1789; the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, (third thearre) opened, 1794; the first main line electric train in Butain ran from Liverpool to Southport, 1904; the Girl Guides (later Scouts) movement was started in the United States by Juliene Gordon Low, 1912 Today is actress, 70; Miss Elizabeth Vaughan. the Feast Day of St Alphoge of

Winchester, St Bernard of Captra, St Maximilian of Theveste, St Paul Aurelian or of Loon, Saints Peter, Gorgonius and Dorotheus. St Seraphina or Fina and St Theophanes the Chronicler.

#### Lectures

National Gallery: Linda Bolton "Constable til): the changing lace of nature", lpm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Ge-

offrey Opic. "The History of the V&A: later developments". 230pm. Higheate Literary and Scientific Institution, London No: Dr John Villiers, "Court, Temple and Kampu the art and culture of Indonesia 7.45pm.

Leicester University: Professor Peter Fearon, "The Political Economy of the New Deal", 5.15pm. University College London, London WC1: Professor Michele Hancoosh, "In Search of the 19th Century: Delacroix's journal"

Tate Gallery: Judy Crosby Ivv. "Constable's English Landscape Mezzorints", tpm. London School of Economics (Maliggwski Memorial Lecture), London

WC2: Dr Christina Toren, "Compassion for the Other: kinship as constituted intentionally in Fiji , 5.30pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Richard Gray, "Cinemas in Britain", 6.30pm. National Portralt Gallery: Simone

#### Mathews, "Style and Technique in British Portraiture 1650-1700", 1pm. Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Sir Nicholas Bonsor MP. Minister of State for Foreign and Common-wealth Affairs, hosted a lunch held vesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Senor Her-

nan Errazuriz, the Ambassador of the

Republic of Chile. Rotary Club of London Mr Nick Tarah, Past President, Rolary Club of London, presided at a iuncheon held yesterday at the Portman Hotel, London W. Mr Neville Shulman was the speaker.

#### Dinners

Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme Miss Betty Boothroyd MP was the host at the Annual Dinner of the Thorne, Chairman, were the speak-Commonwealth Day

The Queen and the Prince of Wales

anended the multi-faith Common-

#### Observance

wealth Day Observance held yesterday at Westminster Abbey, London SW1. The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, read the Commonwealth Day Message from the Queen on the theme Working in Partnership". The Prime Minister was represented by Baroness Chalker of Wallasey and the Foreign Secretary by Mr Jeremy Hanley MP. The Leader of the Opposition was represented by Mr Robin Cook MP. The Leader of the Liberal Democrats was represented by Mr Menzies Campbell QC MP. A procession of flags of the Common wealth was borne by nationals of

Music was provided by the Melo-dian Steel Orchestra UK, and singing by the chairboxs of Westminster Abbey and the London Adventist Chorale. An oboe solo was performed by Mr Daniel Bates. Among others present were:

Mrs Emeka Anyaoku: Mrs Jeremy Hanley, The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Akin Bradley, The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John Chalstrey, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Chal-strey, Sir John Coles, Permanent Under-Sep-Chilstrey, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Chalstrey, Sir John Codes, Permanent Under Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Corps: Vice-Adminal Sir James Wentherall, Masshal of the Diplomatic Corps: Wentherall, Masshal of the Diplomatic Corps: The Hon Cyril Ndebele, Speaker of the Zimbehwe House of Assembly, Mr R. Srinvasan, Commonwealth Departy Secretary-General (Political), and Mrs Srinvasan; Mr Eswan Hure, Commonwealth Departy Secretary-General (Development Cooperation); Sir Peter Marshall, Chauman of the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council, and Lady Musthal; Sir Oliver Forster, Chairman of the Commonwealth Trust and the Royal Commonwealth Society, Mr R. W. Lilley, Representative of the Chairman of the Royal Over-Seas League, and Mrs Lilley; Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union: Mr Colin Webber, Chairman of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendstry, and Mrs Webber.
Rabbi Hugo Gryn; Swani Dayamanda; The Rev Geoffrey Roper Rabbi Dr Julian Jacobs (representing the Chief Rabbi); Mr Inderfit Singh; The Rev John H. McIndoe (representing the Rev Alexander Canne); Professor Dr M.A. Al-Macsaly; The Most Ven Pandith M. Vajiragmana; Caroon Vincent Berry Lepresenting the Carthral Archibishop, of Westminster).

MUTAL EINGAGEMENTS
The Queen holds an investions at Buckingham Palsor. The Prince of Wales, Putron, English Chamber Orchestra and Music Society, attends a Gala Concert at the Barbican Centre, London ECI. The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, attends the conference "Raising Standards of Basic Skills the role of fibraries" at the Hotel Russell, London WCI; as Patron, the Association of Combined Fouth Calls, attends a lumcheon at Brook Burlington Suite, the tel reussell, Jondon WCI, as Fairon, the Association of Combined Fronth Cubs, attends a lunchron at Brook Burlington Suite, the Grosvenor House Hotel, London WI: and as President, Royal Yaching Association, attends the "Sail for Gold" Reception et Simpson (Pricadilly) Limited, London WI. The Dochess of Gioacester opens the rehabilitation unit at Broadgreen Hospitalt visits, the North West Cunder Research Fin. Liverpool: and opens the new astension at Belvedere School for Crists, Princet Park, Liverpool: The Dutle of Kent visits the Royal School for Deaf Children, Margate; as Visr-Chairman, British Oversons Trade Board, visits Shepherd Neane Breweria; Paversham; and visits Business Limis, Weight Malling, Kent. The Duckess of Kent opens Transhouse (Oswestry), Oswestry, opens the use Magistrates' Court, Gowestry, and visits Miller Dairy IUK), Market Drayton, Shropshire. Prince Michael of Kent, Honorary President of the Television and Radio Industries Cub, attends the 1996 Awards lunch at Groswenor House, London Wil.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Outen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; T Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Backinghum Palace, 11:30am, band provided by the Greenather Courts.

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### business



'For a moment, it looked as if fear was getting the upper hand. A mere statistic was enough to lead to

a dramatic change in

which way interest rates in the US are heading'

perceptions about

No crash but equities are in for a rough ride The world changes and markets change alongside it but the forces that guide and mould them do not. Economic fundamentals in tandem so that national differentials are

are only part of the story here. They both affect markets and are affected by them. But primarily it is the psychological factors of fear and greed that drive stock markets. They always have done, and always will do. The secret of stock market prediction, therefore, is correctly to read when the one is going to take over from the other.

For a moment there, it looked as if fear was getting the upper hand. A mere statistic - the US equivalent of our own unemployment figures - was enough to lead to a dramatic change in perceptions about which way interest rates in the US are heading. More cuts bad been confidently expected further fuelling this extraordinary bull run in equities. Now, with the US economy appar-ently heading for overfell, the expectation bas swung 180 degrees; the next move will be up, not down, everyone is saying. Disaster - well, on Friday at least. With a weekend to sleep on it, the pundits are now not so sure. Wall Street was like a yo-yo yesterday, not knowing which way to go, and the situation looks

barder to read than ever. For what it is worth, bere is the bear case for London equities. Let us assume that US interest rates are at the very least now on hold with the likelihood being that their next move is upwards. Despite the pause for breath yesterday, that cannot be anything other than bad news for US Treasury bonds. If they go

maintained. Given that London equities are already expensive relative to gilts, any adverse reaction in gilts is going to cause shares to tumble.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, wants to see at least another half-point fall in British base rates. He believes that this is not only possible but also justified by the data. In the past he has been lucky and things have swung his way. Increasingly isolated in the Cabinet over Europe, his luck may now be running out. It is going to require an extraordinary and wholly unforeseen change in international and domestic economic conditions for him to justify that extra half point. Enfectled though the Bank of England might be, the Chancellor is not going to be allowed to get away with it.

the London equity market, takeover fever, is also fading fast. There are still plenty of deals in the offing, but there is also a great deal of besitation. Unsertled markets worse, markets that could fall beavily - are a bad backdrop for deal-making. Political uncertainty is adding to the "wait and see" mentality. Who knows when the general elec-tion might be, but the odds are fast sbortening on the autumn and if that is the case, there are not going to be any big takeovers

The other factor that has been holding up

All things considered, then, things do not

be written off lightly. It seems unlikely that we are heading for a crash similar to the one that afflicted world markets in 1987, but this year's buil market certainly looks to be over.

### All the high street in a hypermarket

Detrol, Post Offices and now Sketchley dry cleaners. The big supermarket chains, in their search for new lines and sources of profit, continue their assault on the traditional preserve of the high street

As it retreaches, with the closure of 160 branches, Sketchley is expanding out of town by opening an unspecified number of branches in Sainsbury supermarkets. Preumably it is only a matter of time before betting shops, travel agents, estate agents, and building societies are all there too, available at your local hypermarket. Why, it cannot be long before we are all nipping down to Sainsbury's for a pint as well.

The decline of the high street and the ever onwards and upwards march of the hig supermarket chains is a long established trend, but we are surely witnessing something newhere. In part, it is the decline of the high street brand name. Sketchley still has an upmarket ring to it, but on the whole it is perceived as just another bog standard dry cleaner, to all intents and purposes indistin-

costs and overheads. Furthermore, purveyors of specialist services need to go where the customers are. These days it tends to be the supermarket, not the high street.

#### Small businesses are a big election issue

Michael Hesettine, champion of small firms in his competitiveness drives when at the Department of Trade and In-dustry and now the Cabinet Office, was a disunguished absentee from yesterday's small business conference in London to launch a package of new policies for the supposed ben-efit of the entrepreneur. This perhaps was not too much of a surprise, since he would have risked a barrage of questions from the floor about bis own admission that he had

been a bad payer in his early business career. But leaving aside Mr Heseltine's embarrassment at losing the initiative on an issue dear to his heart - the competitiveness of small firms - the real significance of yesterday's package was not the individual mea-sures. It was the fact that the Prime Minister has taken over presentation of the policy. According to a DTI minister, Mr Major's

interest had an immediate impact inside Whitehall, where log-jams started breaking. The most obvious example was his insistence ing disclosure by large companies of their late payments record. Only a few months ago, employers had successfully shot down this

proposat and persuaded the Government to accept the second-best option of publication of companies' payment policies. The statutory instrument enforcing disclosure of corporate policy went through the Commons only in January, but already it is looking out of date. Policy is one thing, prac-tice often quite another. The policy statement

compromise always did look unsatisfactory. Most of the new measures for small firms, including those on late payment, are far from final decisions and must go out to consultation to see if they will work. But whereas in the past this formula has more often than not been a prelude to shelving anything remotely controversial or difficult, the Prime Minister's involvement tells a different story.

Small business is becoming an election issue, because of its impact on growth and the large number of jobs it creates. Next week. Tony Blair is to introduce a Labour conference on small business at which many of the personalities at Mr Major's jamboree will resurface, along with their shopping lists for government action.

Anybody with a decent idea for improv-

ing the lot of small husiness will be pushing at an open door over the next few months, as the two parties try to outdo each other. In the policy field, small businesses have never had it so good.

### Colorvision dives after OFT's move on licences

Sbares in Colorvision slumped 12 per cent yesterday when the Liverpool-based television and video retailer issued a profits warning following the decision by the Office of Fair Trading to revoke its consumer licences in January.

The company complained bitterly about its treatment by the OFT and said the issue now threatened its survival. The board has appointed advisers to identify companies who might

buy a stake in the group.
As the shares fell 3p to 23p compared with their 250p peak in 1988, chairman Neville Michaelson said: "It is a tragedy that this case has been allowed to go so far without any debate. as to the consequences and how it could be resolved. The directors will continue to fight to preserve this 32-year-old business on behalf of its 750 employees, our shareholders and the 200 sub-contractors and small businesses who are de-

The company bas appointed Anthony Scrivener QC to act on its behalf on its appeal against the OFT decision Mr Scrivener said: "In my

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opinion it is clear than the OFT bas misdirected themselves in law and in fact on many important issues. I bave no hesitation in advising the company to appeal."

In its trading statement yesterday the company said it now expects losses for the year to March 31 to be greater than current expectations among analysis of a £750,000 deficit. The company said it was unlikely that there would be any major improvement in trading until the issue on credit licences bad been resolved. Sales excluding satellite systems bave been 29 per cent down on the

cences after concluding that the company had used misleading price information, not offered refunds where appropriate and entered false information on credit arrangements.

Colorvision is appealing against the decision and has said its infringements have not been unduly serious or unique in the industry. That process could normally take up to a year, however the OFT has now agreed to meet with the company to discuss the issue. No date has been fixed as the senior OFT official who will be chairing the meeting is on

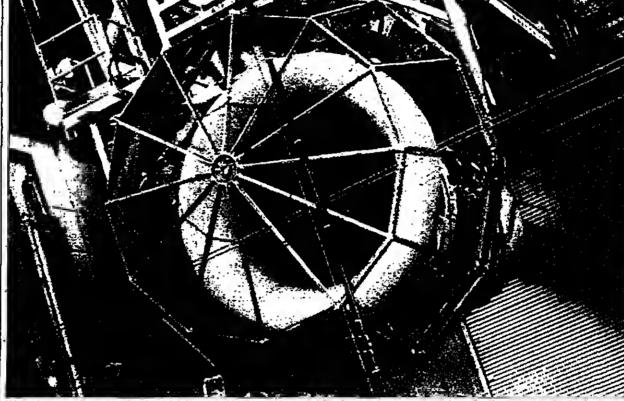
Colorvision gave immediate notice of appeal to the DTI and pending the outcome of the appeal, the company's credit li cences remain in place. However, the company said the OFT statement contained "emotive statements" which had achieved widespread pub-

Speaking on the company's Mr Scrivener QC said that the group's credit licences were renewed by the OFT in September 1993 and that much of the evidence that gave rise to the decision, predated that renewal

Colorvision says it has developed new procedures and training methods to deal with

market darling in the late 19080. But since then the recession and the cut throat conditions in the electrical retailing market have taken their toll.

The company said in January that it said it felt it had been singled out by the OFT and said that the company would not not treated its customers corthe group and its market capitalisation bas now slumped from its £50m peak in 1988 to



Warming up: Success in the bid for the JAST engine would bring a stream of work to Rolis-Royce's factories

### Rolls and GE fighter forces join

an advanced engine for a newgeneration fighter aircraft.

The deal, announced yesterday and which also brings Rolls's American division, Allison Engine, into the part-nership, creates a formidable force to challenge Pratt and Whitney's rival military engine.

Rolls, GE and Allison intend to form a more integrated business consortium with the next few years, the companies said.

A new engine is needed for the Joint Advanced Strike Tech-Colorvision was once a stock nology aircraft, expected to be the only new US fighter programme in the next 30 years. Three US aircraft-makers -

Rolls-Royce is joining forces with its arcb-rival, General
Electric of America to make the service of the new fighters, which are also expected to the new fighters. place the Royal Navy's Harri-

er jump jets. Rolls estimates that US/UK orders could total 3,000 early next century, with "considerable additional export potential." Under the agreement, GE would act as lead systems integrator for engine development work, and Rolls would work on the design and development of

the fan. "By drawing on the strengths of the three companies, this team can produce the range of technologies to meet the challenging JAST requirements," said Charles Hughes, Rolls's project director for future com-

The engine-makers hope that their YF120 cruise engine can gain the lead over the F119 engine being developed by Pratt and Whitney, which is leading the competition for the order in

the early stages.

The Rolls partnership is also working on developing a GEA-FXL lift engine that would mitially get the fighters into the air.

GE and Allison, bought by Rolls last year, have co-operated on developing advanced propul-sion technologies for the US government since 1993

Meanwhile, reports in Germany said a possible engine alliance hetween the Daimler Aerospace unit MTU and a joint venture between BMW and Rolls is increasingly

The failure to reach a deal could have serious conscquences for MTU, which has been restructuring as part of Dasa's Dolores ("dollar-low rescue") program.

The companies had hoped to formulate an alliance by the end of February, but the date has come and gone.

"We must draw our conclusions from Ihat," a BMW spokesman said.

According to Reuters, industry sources said MTU's existing co-operation commit ments with Pratt & Whitney make it impossible for it to team up with BMW/Rolls.

Dasa declined to comment on a report in Germany's Handelsblan newspaper that the co-operation talks had collapsed.

#### IN BRIEF

#### Oil reserves run deep

Britain will produce more oil than present consumption rates for another 10 years and there are reserves large enough to sustain significant production for at least a further 20 years, the UK Offsbore Operators Association said yesterday, Gas production could also reach a new peak in 2,000, which will be double the level of 1990. The association described its new report as presenting a "very encouraging picture of offshore oil and gas and its po-

#### Cruickshank hits back at BT

Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator, published a formal response to complaints about the impact of new regulation on the company's shareholders. He said it was not part of his objective to penalise BT shareholders but "this does not mean that BT should be able to earn monopoly profits for its shareholders by exploiting its very strong market position." He was responding to criticisms by Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive of BT.

#### **German production strengthens**

Germany's industrial production was much stronger than expected in January, rising 1.6 per cent during the month. The year-on-year rate of growth recovered to 1.3 per cent after being negative for the previous five months. The main factor was a 10.2 per cent increase in capital goods output, while durable goods output was also up. Production of other consumer goods and construction both declined. With unemployment up again in February, analysts said yesterday's output figure had not damaged the chance of an interest rate cut in Germany.

#### **Tourists stay home**

There was a slowdown in international tourism in the world's rich countries last year, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Slower growth meant arrivals al frontiers were up 4 per cent, the same as in 1994. But the number of nights' accommodation was up 3 per cent, down from the previous year's 11 per cent growth. Real revenues from tourism grew 2 per cent, half the previous year's rate. The 26 OECD countries account for about 70 per cent of the world's tourism.

#### Firm demand for Hutchison

Hutchison Whampoa, the owner of Orange, the mobile telephone company, said about 100,000 investors had registered to receive share applications from the company. Marketing to retail investors will hegin tomorrow. A minimum investment of £1,000 is required from retail investors, who are being allocated half of the 325 million shares on offer, with the final price to be determined on 26

#### Daly to retire at Rank

James Daly, managing director of the film and television division at Rank Organisation, will retire on 10 April following a recent illness. Mr Daly leaves after 34 years service with Rank, the last 14 as a main board director. Philip Clement, president of Rank's world-wide film and video processing businesses, will be replacing

#### to keep holding in Rentokil have survived for 32 years if had rectly. But the bad publicity duce the stake to 25 per cent. seems to have cast a pall over Sopbus had previously un-Rentokil's majority sharebold-er, Sophus Berendsen, yesterdertaken to remain "a long-term shareholder" and had said it

day moved to kill speculation about its long-term commitment to the company should Rentokil's £1.9bn takeover of BET succeed. The Danish company, whose 51.7 per cent stake in Rentok-

per cent after a takeover, said it would not sell its holding for at least five years. Berendsen's commitment to Rentokil was called into question over the weekend after damaging reports that the Dan-

ish company's chief executive, Hans Werdelin, wanted to re-

il would be diluted to about 35

would keep its shares for at least

Berensen affirms intention

one year. But in a statement to the Copenhagen stock exchange yesterday, Mr Werdelin said: "In view of continued speculation as to Sopbus Berendsen's longterm commitment to its Rentokil shareholding, the board confirms its previous statement that it intends to remain as a long-term shareholder in Rentokil. In particular Sophus is happy to undertake that it will not sell Rentokil shares for at

least five years." BET has sought to exploit a

business services company and Berendsen as part of its first defence document, posted to sbareholders on Sunday night. BET forecast a dividend of 5.1p for the year to 30 March. a 27.5 per cent rise over the pre-vious year, and said a profits forecast would be made "in due course". BET repeated that there was only a 25 per cent overlap between the two businesses. "There appears to be no strategic rationale for combining the business," the company said.

BET shares were down 1.5p to 193p, while Rentokil slipped 5p to 343p on a difficult day for the whole stock market.

### NatWest Mortgage Rate

With effect from 11 March 1996 for barrowers whose applications have been signed but whase martgages have not been drawn, and fram 1 May 1996 for existing barrowers, the NatWest Martgage Rate payable under current Martgage Deeds and Canditians of Offer will be decreased from 7.49% to 7.25%. This change will be reflected in existing

barrowers' repayments from 5 or 22 May 1996.

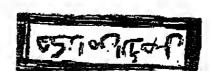
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announces that with effect from close of business open 11th March 1996 its Base Rate has decreased from 6.25% to 6%



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愛SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Gilts Index

### market report/shares

Takeover talk proves good for Cable and Wireless FT-SE 100 3,674.5 -35.8 FT-SE 250 shares of Cable and Wireless 4,212.0 -40.7 signalled takeover action. In heavy trading they jumped 30p to 477p after touching FT-SE 350 1,843.0 -17.9 SEAQ VOLUME Expectations of a US strike 631m shares,

provoked the surge. The giant AT&T is regarded as the most likely predator. The Cable excitement

fine Cable excitement followed renewed speculation BT was about to mount a bid. It is known BT had sought, and apparently failed, to win Wbitehall clearance for a strike. But discussions between the two continued. Cable admitted it had been ble admitted it had been involved in talks which had terminated.

The market seized upon the Cable statement as an admission it was ready to do a deal. With its boardroom weakened by the abrupt departure of the telecommunications giant volvement in the Hong Kong

As the stock market wilted, is seen as vulnerable to a determined strike.

Its current capitalisation is around £10.5bn. But it has been clear for a long time that the group is undervalued on a sum-of-the-parts calculation. Its controlling stake in Hong Kong Telecom creates much of the confusion. Some believe to accommodate HKT's true valuation Cable could command

a price tag of more than £20bn.
AT&T could, perhaps,
match such a demanding valuation. But it could stretch BT, with a market worth of

However an AT&T bid could force BT's band. It is al-ready under intense pressure from Oftel and could see Cable as offering an escape route from the continuing harassment of the industry regulator.
The view is any bid would ul-

timately be a break up shot with at least a reduced in-

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stuck market reporter of the year

operation a distinct possibility. cossibility of a share exchange bid was too much for BT sbares, off 2p to 361.5p.

The market was under the shadow of New York, Friday's slump was too frightening even for a seemingly decoupled London and at one time the FI-SE 100 index was down 81.2 points. But New York, although volatile, put on a brave display and Footsie closed 35.8 points down at 3,674.5.

The feared wave of selling failed to materialise and talk of another Black Monday proved to be wide of the mark But the market remains ex-ceedingly tender. A two day de-

cline of more than 80 points, The market trend and the following the expected interest rate cut, illustrates its fragility. Yet if New York continues its recovery, shares could become

strongly today. One influence which should not be overlooked is this week's Cheltenham race meeting, a notorious magnet for many of the City's big hitters. Trading during Cheltenham week is often lacklustre although the more nervous international atmosphere now evident could this time keep

many traders on their toes: Cable was not the only blue chip to survive the storm. Management changes lifted Kong share market which low-Rank Organisation 11p to ered HSBC 41.5p to 1,005.5p;

490p and shares with high dividend yields, such as Hanson and Thames Water, had little

difficulty taking the strain.
Allied Domecq frothed 5p to 508p. Its £150m pubs expansion was seen as an indication it could be near to completing but the reaction was "unnecthe sale of its troubled brewessarily alarmist. Profits should climb £7m to £52.3m ing division, Carlsberg-Tetley.

Its brewing involvement restricts the size of its pubs es-tate. But once Allied is free of the Carlsberg-Tetley tie there will be no ceiling on its retailing operations. Bass and Whitbread are the favourites to pounce. Although its ADRs were strong, Bass suffered a 7p fall to 755p; Whitbread lost 5p

to 696p.
Banks and insurances were among the major casualties. Standard Chartered, high lately on takeover speculation, fell 29p to 586p. It was also ruf-fled by the slide in the Hong

General Accident fell 22p to

McKechnie, the engineer. survived the gloom, gaining 1p to 472p. Credit Lyonnais Laing think the shares deserve to be higher. The shares fell because of cautious statements

this year and reach £62m next. Costain, the builder, lost
11.5p to 79.5p. It rebutted takeover talk, which lifted the supplies chilled foods to shares last week, and completed a demolition job by saying losses would be more than forecasts which approach £20m.

Memory Corporation had another eventful session. Although off their low they closed 13p lower at 142p; they

were 553p in September. Alvis lost 2p to 153.5p depite talk of a GKN bid and Aberdeen Trust firmed to 136p as speculation of a Commerz-

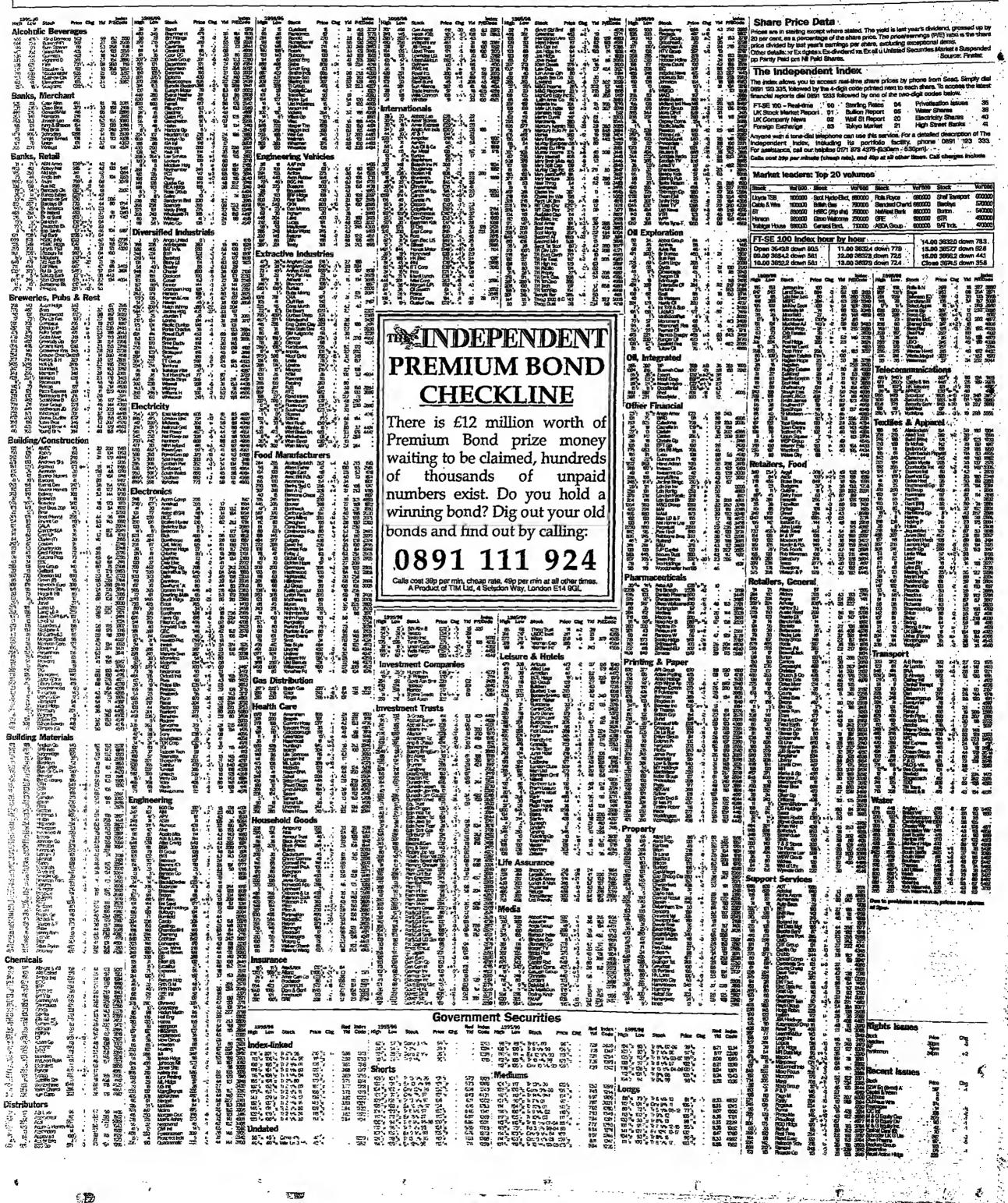
Celsis International, one of the hio babes, resisted the slide. It was helped by the granting of a European potent for its digital system for detecting and counting low levels of microbial contamination in liquids. The world market for microbial contamination is estimated at

TAKING STOCK

Marks & Spencer, eased 1p to 105p. Started in 1912 it came to market in December through a reverse takeover of the ailing Dalepak food busi-

\$4bn. The shares rose 5p to

With Dalepak said to be re-sponding to the C&G touch the shares could be undervalued. Williams de Broe, the £500,000 in the year ending





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### A growl as bond markets show their teeth

It is equities that hit the headlines but hunds are

arguably more important.

It is always difficult in the midst of a period of market turmoil to judge how the twists and turns of a few days trad-ing will be seen in the long march of history. We can, for example, now put the crash of October 1987 into a historical perspective: a serious reaction of a market which had run far ahead of itself, but also a fine buying opportunity in what was still a strongly rising bull trend. At the time we just could see the reaction, not the

opportunity.
Now the talk is of 1987 again, with (as noted bere last) week) the feeling that even if share prices around the world do end the year higher than they began, the end of the bull market will occur in the next 18 months. But when we can see this particular period in perspective I suspect there will be more attention paid to the bond market than to equities, for bonds will be seen as giving the lead to equities. The peak in the bond market will occur before that of equities and therefore be a lead indi-

cator of share prices. passed that peak: bond markets point for trying to "call" the around the world have been in equity markets is to understand retreat for a bit over a month. The US 10-year treasury yield had come down to 5.6 per cent in the first weeks of the national, because in the medi-year; by the middle of last um term all the markets move

\*\*\*\*\*\* & \$20



ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH MCRAE

and yesterday it was between 6.4 and 6.5 per cent. If you look at the change in capital values, rather than in yield, that is a fall of about 15 per cent in little more than a month. Had that happened in equities, it would

be ranked as a crash. But it is a long way from noting the sharp reversal in the similar or lower inflation, bond market to arguing that a slightly lower public deht similar reversal in equities will levels, and is in current account

on a 20-year view the interest differentials between countries with hard currencies and those with soft will shift: some currencies will establish a better rating, nthers a worse. But the lags are long. On paper, French yields ought to be at least as low as German. The country has

The starting point in trying to 'call' equity markets is to understand what is happening to bonds

take place. To some extent the two markets are driven by similar forces, but they can for quite a while move indepen-dently of each other, for the links are elastic. Still, if the bond markets continue to head south, at some stage this will We may well already bave unseat equities. So the starting what is bappening to bonds.

It is probably easiest to think in world terms, rather than in week it was about 6.1 per cent, pretty much together. Perhaps

surplus, not deficit. If you believe the politicians both franc and mark bonds will in any case be transformed into the new euro at present parities.

The perception of the markets is different: French securities are deemed "worse" than German and so carry a higher Interest rate. It is 14 years since the strong franc policy was established, and it still bas failed to convince the markets of its durability.

If you think in world terms, then, the question is this: what has bappened globally that has markets, Indeed one of the only probably. Look around

led to a deterioration in investor confidence in bonds? Put aside fashion - markets

are always susceptible to that and there will have been some element which simply reflects a change of mood. But behind that there seem to be two main furces at work. One is the lagged effect of a much easier money policy in the large developed countries; the other, growing confidence that the present pause in world growth will be just that and not a har-

binger of a serious recession. What has been happening to money and credit in the Group nf Seven economies is shown in the graph. There was no clear trend right through the 1980s, though since inflation was much higher at the begin-ning of the decade than at the end, the flat lines concealed a loosening of monetary policy. which goes a long way towards explaining the late 1980s boom. Then from 1989 onwards monetary growth and bank credit plunged, the fall associated

with the early 1990s recession. Now look what bas been happening in the last year. Both lines are turning upwards. There has been no significant rise in inflation so this represents a marked easing in

monetary conditions. the lags in the system are at least 18 months, perbaps two

main reasons - maybe the main reason - for the strength of the hull market last year has been high global liquidity. There is a lot of money slosh-

Whether people are right to be worried is another matter. for this fall in bond prices, if sustained, will bave the effect of tightening mnnetary policy. If you believe in the power nf the bond markets as a means of curbing inflation, investors have little in fear in the very

long term. Meanwhile, the markets exert that power by pushing up bond yields. So maybe what bond investors are really fearing is not the resurgence of inflation, but rather the steps that the markets will take to prevent

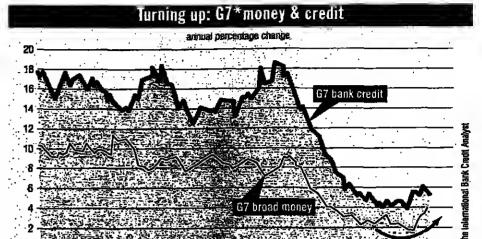
any sucb resurgence.

mg about and it has to go some-

But eventually money is likely to feed into goods inflation, as apposed to asset inflation. and that is one fear of the markets. We bave seen a sharp rise in the gold price, something which would be absurd were the lnng-term downward trend in inflation secure. The gold market is not a lead indicator of anything, but it does give a crude measure of the level of

fear about inflation.

As noted above, the second This easing has not yet bad reason for market caution any impact on world output for stems from a belief that further growth is secure and that we are therefore close to the botyears. But this easing has tom of the interest rate cycle. belped support world securities That is probably right, but



the world and you can con- bring the prospect of faster that case there would no rise struct a decent argument to

growth by the autumn; Italy is OK; so is the UK, thanks to support the "expect a recovery in G7 growth" view. The US domestic consumers; likewise

One of the main reasons for the strength of the bull market last year was global liquidity

looks better than a few weeks Canada. Outside the G7, the ago; there does seem to be newly industrialised countries some growth in Japan at last; are continuing decent growth. Now this quite rosy view Germany and France will have very slow growth in the first may be wrong and the world balf of this year, but that will plunge back into recession. In growl,

kets (though not equities) might well recover. But at the moment the danger of recession is not particularly evident.

in shurt-term interest rates

later this year and bond mar-

How does all this square with the view that the long-term downward trend in inflation is secure? The answer is simply that in order to bolt down inflation, every now and again. bond markets have to show they bave teeth by jamming up interest rates. See their behaviour in recent weeks as a

Foreign Exchange Rates	Interest Rates	Liffe Financial Futures	Industrial Metals London Metal Exchange
Dollar   D	Intervention 380% Canada Intervention 380% Can	Contract   Settlement price   High/Low for day   EstConta interest	S/tone         Cash         3 mits         Volume         LME Stocks         chg           Alumnium HQ         15875-985         1627-28         52475         701225         + 15700           Alumnium Alloy         1350-60         1390-95         891         75020         + 640           Copper A         2586-2601         25%-75         97284         343525         - 4250           Laad         7855-875         776-77         10457         98450         - 120           Nickel         8050-80         8140-50         12950         3764         - 782           Tin         6080-90         6120-30         5493         9640         - 120           Zinc         10665-875         11005-01         30263         630800         - 1825           Settlement Conversion         \$15         \$10m         \$M         Stock volumes & change in zone exchange rates;         15233         1,4823         105.27         as at Friday & Marces
Setherlands   25294   67-58   190-175   18595   32-29   88-83   1195	UK 8% 749 69% 808 Notherlands 9% 535 6% 651 US 51/26 605 51/26 638 Spain 101/26 946 1015% 1007 Japan 64% 129 31% 339 Italy 101/26 1015 101/26 102 102 Australis 31/26 769 101/2 908 Belgium 71/26 538 61/26 692 Germany 61/26 531 6% 650 Swedon 11% 841 6% 846	Chr   Sp   95.41   55.43   55.36   1486   5888   5889   5827   5829   5925   1436   18550   57.52   100   (Mar 96)   36740   38800   38220   28847   29252   57.52   250   (Mar 96)   42050   42050   42050   195   2850	Precious Metals         \$ posts /sc         \$ c         \$ posts /sc         <
Patrialie* 19834 19-29 63-90 13012 19-21 54-56 08778 1019 Kong 1785 104-85 222-167 77325 2-12 15-35 52166 1449-181 38749 0-0 0-0 25423 4-14 80-80 17161 89W Zeeland* 2.2442 47-61 140-163 14723 30-32 88-90 0.9983 audi Arabia 5.7160 0-0 0-0 37503 2-7 9-14 25301 ngapore* 2.1433 0-0 0-0 14062 41-30 103-88 0.9487	France 51% 584 71% 667 ECJ OAT 91% 601 71% 703 Yields calculated on local basis.  Money Market Rates O'Night 7 Day 1 Month 3 6 Months 1 Year	Settlement price: 3669.0   Closing offer price   Call/Put	Gold Buth 39575 29858 Britannia 30 cz 52 34 Mapie Leel 3977411 26172  Agricultural CMS Cucca Cottee Barley Potatoes Potatoes LCE Storme LCS Storme LCS Etorme LCS Storme AIA Gld/100kg
Deliver Spot Rates   Country Sterling   Dollar   Ingentina   15243   0.9899   Nigeria   13107   86,0000   Sept.   13107   86,0000   Sept.   13107   Sept.	hterteenk	Energy  Brent Crude  (s/barret)  (s/barret	May   931   May   1858   May   108.15   Apr   175.00   Apr   29.2     July   932   July   1798   Sept   105.30   May   25.00   Jun   33.0     Volt   4,788   Volt   1,939   Volt   27   Volt   102   Volt   42.2     Wrate Suger   Raw Seger   Prelight   Wheet   Corn   12.0 Pre     LCE   Sharee   LCE   Centarius   LCE   Stokete pt   LCE   Ehome   CBOT   Cents, fusbe     May   383.70   May   11.90   Feb   1445   Mar   11560     Aug   382.30   May   11.90   Mar   4471   May   117.90   May   381.25 389.00   391.0     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   379.5     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50 -378.00   380.50     Volt   2,026   Volt   0   Index   157   Volt   20.0   July   380.50   380.
hana 2349.70 1542.00 Ruscia 7357.24 482600 regee 368.905 242.640 South Africa 60.065 39.400 dia 51.8402 34.0125 Tahwen 41.9238 275000 uwelt 04.563 0.2993 UAE 55896 3.6731 powerd rates quoted high to low are at a discount: subtract from spot rate to quoted low to high are at a premium: Deliar rates quoted as reciprocals. The lettest toreign sectuarge rates call 0.891 123 3033.  and a cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.	Australie(Dollars)   1,9250   France(Francs)   7,4800   New Zealand(Dollars)   2,2000	Commonweight   Comm	Other Softs  May Maize (No.5)*** Shorne 1485   May/Jul Soya Diff FU/100kg 889.  Mar/Apr Copra (1) Shorne 1780   FebMar Cocorut Ot (1) Shorne 732.  May Cotton (NY) UScerti/lb 83.48   Mar Sunflower Dist Shorne 5651  Apr Wool Acentific 5750   Apr Rapeseed DisFL/100kg 851  Apr Rabber* Meentify 4040   FebMar Groundard Dis Shorne 8201  Onigina Foundard District Dany ergis : Philippress/Indoness **Maloysis ***N Europe Source: FT Information/Routers

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount: Subtract from spot rate quoted low to high are at a premium: subtract from spot rate "Dollar rates quoted as recurrocals. For the least toreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033. Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.	trate Cyprus/Pounds† 0,7000 Interno(Punts) Denmant(Koner) 8,4800 Italy(Lira) Holland(Gulidens) 2,4700 Japen(Yen) Finland(Marks) 8,9400 Malta(Liri)	0.9800 Sweden(Kronor) 10.3000 2335.0000 Switzerland(Francs) 1.7700 1580000 Turkey(Lira) 98853.0000 0.5400 United States(Dollars) 1.4875	Inclusial Metals 1977 - 100 18865 + 11 Livestock 1970 - 100 17836 + 10 Procious Metals 1973 - 100 505,54 + 0. Source Cottmen, Sector & Co. 390 at a Material And period	53 182.71 -2.38 179.86 -0.63	May Cotton (NY) UScent/lb 8348 Apr Wool Acent/lig 675.0 Apr Rubber Mcent/lig 404.0 Origin: Rouch/EC - Dany origin - Philippress/Indonwes.	Mar Sunflower Diss Stonne 5650 Apr Rapeseed OBSFL/100kg 850 Feb/Mar Groundhut Dil Stonne 9200 Matoyde "N Europe Scenes: FT Internation/Routers
		Latest Unit	Trust Prices			
Stock Sell Boy Yid Stock Sell	Buy Yld Stock Self Buy Yld	Stock Sell Buy Yld	Stock Sell Boy Yid	Stock Sell Buy Yid	Stock Self Buy Yid	Stock Sell Buy Yld
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers Managed Fund 7433 AXA Equity & Law Has Corporation St. Managed Fund Acc 9688		MS Unit Treat Dealing: 0171 905 0033 Hong Kong Index 650069 025095 430	Corporate Bond 2145 2454 78 Desidend 4430 4860 4.51	Income 43.96 442.75 3.20	(Accum Units) 36086 36296 0.00 European Gwith 8644 8174 0.84 (Accum Units) 9085 9643 0.84	Stowart Ivory Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd 45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4HW
Constitute CM 1GD Lik Growth Funds	FP Monthly Distribution 73x8 70577 6578	Hong Kong Beer 931621 597876 430 UK Index 5129898 \$186822 525	(Accum Units) 1920 2031 451 Equity Income 3458 3657 6505	Whede Recovery Inc. 44784 47877 d051 Whede Recovery Acc. 44808 47824 0.51	(Accum Units) 9085 9543 084 Euro Smit Cos 10181 10644 0.30	Douling & Enquiries: 0131 226 3271 American 5031 533.7
General Acc 6233 6831 (1271 Smaller Cos Acc 5411	1 5756 184 FP Starting Deposit . 1009 1009 536	Japan Index £193231 £115422 0.00 US Index £183648 £192961 3.75	(Accum Units) 488.8 488.4 486.5 Fuzzonen & General 600.8 535.3 0.93	American Growth Inc 29100 310.77 d0.01 American Growth Acc 29100 310.77 0.01	(Appur Units) 103.09 109.91 0.30 For Eastern Gwith 110.27 17752 d0.00	(Accum Units) 593.7 6298
LK Growth Acc. 4232 4503 288 U.S. General Acc. 11580	6 123,04 2,67 FP Tokyo , 81,31 85,73 D	Cash £95472 £95948 5.75 UK Beer £662934 £63908 5.25	(Accum Units) 768.5 810.2 0.93 European Dividend 7950 8430 3.84	European Gwith Inc 17316 19507 023 European Gwith Acc 17376 18571 035	(Accum Units) 11240 11989 d0:00 Oit & Flood Interest 498n 5251 d785	(Accum Unics) 276.7 24511 306 Emerging Markets 1501 1501 070
Higher Inc Acc 7715 8208 425 International Growth Funds	P UK Focus 3997 4297 259	Japan Beer \$103842 \$107614 0.00 US Beer \$5,8934 \$73861 3.70	(Accum Units) 9880 1044 284 Extra Yield 4417 4821 d514	Ind Emerging Cos Inc 27858 29795 0.04 Ind Emerging Cos Aca 27878 29834 0.04	(Accum Units) 7266 7659 d785 Globel Bond 5268 5444 6,83	Accum Units 1510 1611 0.70
Higher Inc Inc 4293 4568 425 Europe Growth 20550 Calsified int Acc 2018 2132 4573 Europe Growth 19857 Cass, Prod Int Inc 8057 4577 4573 Oliobel Bond 8431	7 14529 000 PP UK Growth 1859 1882 274 1 1882 530 (Accum Lintus) 3690 3836 274	Doller Bull \$14910 \$15,7625 3.75 Doller Bus: \$86235 \$88916 5.25	(Accum Units) 14545 15383 d514 Far Eastern 3779 3996 d113	Par Eastern Growth Inc. 308.69 \$30.5 0.77   Par Eastern Growth Acc 308.62 \$33.36 0.77	Global Bond 5268 5444 6.93 (Accum Units) 6102 6306 6.93 Global Erner Mitts 5570 5941 0.00	Europeen 6508 6926 068 (Accum Units) 7302 7771 080 Japan 1946 1431 d-
Nth America 3575 2805 000 Global Bond Acc 9321 Europe 3366 3561 0056 Japan Grown 1624	1 10121 590 Sementiship \$8710 42248 1.77 1 12250 0.00 (Accum Units) 49430 52550 1.77	Git But \$10925 \$117062 525 Git Beur \$28941 \$73250 525	(Accum Units) 5041 5331 d143 Rund of Inc Tists 9574 7058 186 (Accum Units) 12880 13409 196	UK Showth yid 1070 11445 d2.75 UK Growth Acc 11499 12299 2.75 High Income 10822 15.75 382	(Accum Units) 55.75 59.47 0.00 income 38856 415.53 05.22 (Accum Units) 1292.38 137853 05.22	New Pacific 4375 4659 141
Japan Ed Acc 4803 4897 000 North American Growth 22508 Pacific Sean Tet Acc 405.7 4315 084 Oriental Growth 8808	9 8903 000 (Accum Units) 10380 17340 481	Lagal & General (UT Managera) Ltd 5 Reyleigh Rd, Huton, Brentwood, Essex Engulee: 01277 227300 Dealing: 01277 880395	Ganeral 6520 7000 384	High Income 10822 1575 382 Japanese Gwith Inc 21383 22828 dB01 Japanese Gwith Acc 21383 22818 081	Jarram Smir Con 439.27 468.55 000	(Accum Units) 4864 4966 1.41 Investment Tst 2504 2654 d0.86 (Accum Units) 2885 305.7 0.00
Brit Excell 8407 8344 204 Worldwide Growth 7323 Brit Findmitte Acc 7223 TSS 0488 Worldwide Growth Acc 7645	2 8126 030 (Accum Units) 126.00 194.00 0.88	Cash Accum \$7.76 57.76 d5.70	(Accum Unite) 1925 2036 384 Gift Income 58.93 5901 473 (Accum Units) 172.89 172.93 473	PEP Growth 4028 150.04 0.79 PEP Band 4993 50.05 758	Juneo Francisco 6400 7253 000	Mond Equaty 197.2 208.5 161
But Fridmits Inc 78.99 8191 44.69 Other CJ Unit Trusts (non Pf Slobal Opps 97.28 V35 0.28 CLIDOS Japan Equity 10753 Patrong Acc 50.98 64.96 2.77 CLIDOS UK Equity 10753	9 10804 0.00 Quetanore House,	Equity Disp 53970 57430 d284 Equity Accum 109800 19800 d284 South Income 10280 10320 452	Gold 7880 8330 017 (Acoum Units) 9350 9890 017	Assett Smith Micto Inc. 13736 14659 0.01 Author Smith Micto Acc. 13736 14694 0.01	(Accum Unite) 66.00 72.53 0.00 Pacific Gwith 55561 165.98 d.0.48 (Accum Unite) 161.22 171.98 d.0.48	Mogd Cash 9822 9622 567 (Accum Units) 1422 1422 567
Belanced In: 58.34 6207 2.77 CLOOS US Equity 10969	105 105 Tet; 0171-782 2000 Dealing only: 01277-264421	UK Tactical Allocation 6171 6554 d425	High Income 31.70 33.50 4.76 (Accum Units) 182.4 1402 470	American Smaler Cos Inc 18469 19753 0.01   American Smir Cos Acc 18459 19753 0.01	\$600 4899 52.25 0.00 (Accum Units) 4899 52.25 0.00	Sun Life Trust Mingred Ltd PO Box 1810, Dept RPD,
The clays Unicorn United Deposit Fund Acc 19848J Personal Fund Acc 1984	10345 549 British Growth 5654 8047 1189	Fer Feature 23060 24530	Inti Growth 9020 9540 d000 (Accum Unite) 5567 1680 d086	Global Bond \$8.72 \$9.72 d556 UK Smaller Coe Inc 10134 10839 144	Smaller Coe 28853 28749 115 (Accum Units) 318.48 33970 115	Bristol 8566 85N Eng: 0171-808 4044 Declines: 0171-406 501D
Balanced Trusts Outlier Fund Acc 17236	6 18338 d201 Practical fiv (inc) 12008 12843 262	Gilt 88.77 94.34 6.28 Global Growth 82.26 87.51 0.48	International Inc   TIOS   17/3   448	UK Smeller Coe Aoc 10863 11406 144   Money Acc 5384 5384 805   Latin American Gwith Inc 3176 3397 007	Tokyo 12715 13682 d0.00 (Accum Units) 12843 13639 d0.50 Uh Enterprise 31414 33508 2.20	Amer Growth Acc 8773 6306 007 Cap Protector Inc 4484 4781 286
Bar inv Fo inc 398.7 453 2.42 Exempt Unit Trust 19798	6 20312 220 UK Symber Con 5500 1885 069	Int Bond 5490 5826 d542 Japanese 7255 7738	(Accust Units) 4440 4550 Japan Straffer Cos 1438 1519	Latin American Gwith Acc 31.87 34.09 0.07 Exampt Funds	Accum Units) 383.60 409.07 2.20  UK Equity 280.30 298.98 2.59	Cap Protector Ac: 5704 6068 285 Distribution Inc 28.04 2770 d3.44
European Beline 9442 9773 6,74 Pramilington Unit Magt Ltd	Income Punds Str Fatra Visid 2357 2442 839	North American 19890 21150 0082 Pacific Growth 19840 12700 017 UK Index 7167 7546 289 UK Recovery 10690 11870 197	(Accum Units) 1446 1530	UK Exempt 365.33 380.04 2.72 Oversees Exempt 303.61 394.72 001	(Accum Units) 557.26 56442 2.33 US Smitr Cos 25.25 22950 0.00	Distribution Acc 2729 2903 d344 Emerging Marieus Acc 2142 2279 000 Euro Growth Acc 1018 10719 001
500 4842 6234 t2.59 American Growth 78.32	2 81.57 d0.00   UK Equity income . 149.87 190.40 03.22	UK Recovery 106:90 119.70 1.97	Marriaged Income 2830 3050 6424	Prodential Unit Trusts Ltd 51-69 Mord Hzt. Word, Essec, 191 204	(Accum Units) 215.25 22960 0.00 Portfolio 9014 9614 02.15	Fair Growth Acc 15929 18946 0.00 Japan Growth Acc 15929 18946 0.00 Japan Growth Acc 15027 11770 0.00
General 3(077 3285 249 (Accum Units) 7632 Property 2x05 2581 dB3 Accur Strift Cos 6350	9 6791 000 International Punds	LK Stocionarket Acc 6524 6524 173	Pension Ex 10306 10564 446	Managed list 4393 4552 180 Cash Haven Inc 1018 10188 530	(Accum Units) 9941 10504 0215 Institutional Fundo	Emerging Mariest Acc 2142 22.78 000 Euro Growth Acc 0018 0076 001 Far East Gwh Acc 159.29 49846 000 Japan Growth Acc 1097 11770 000 Mingd Estra Income Acc 4284 4545 (538
Income Trusts Capital Tet 3650	7 9987 124   Girbel Manager 168.79 18603 135	European Index 6750 9235 204	Recovery 46.70 49.40 2.7 (Accum Linits) 78.50 83.90 2.7 Second General 72.90 77.90 3.63	Cash Heven Acc 116.53 116.90 5.30 Dist Inc 103.16 106.92 6.57	European 27696 28769 0143 (Accum Unter) \$11.6 \$23.21 0143 Euro Smit Cos 34.9 35.61 127	Mingd High Yield Inc 8454 9036 d450
Cash Acc 1214 1274 557 (Accum Units) 5800 Cash Inc 1009 1009 657 Cord 9mile Coe 1228 Distribution 100 1006 6531 (Accum Units) 6631	3 6735 (179 Giobal Utilian 1433) 16304 145	Workiwide 94.09 100:00 150 Lioyde Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd	Second General 7210 7720 3.63 (Accum Units) 195.7 2070 3.63 Smaller Cos 70.70 7480 d3.17	Dist Acc 112.62 116.91 6.57 Disber Groups 102.06 106.57 1.19 Prudentell Foutry Inc 9014 96.69 4.57	(Accum Units) 36.73 38.26 1.27 Global Equity Inc. 96.48 93.20 0.00	Mood Inc 4 Orth Inc 8200 8723 3.37
Extra income 1222 1464 48 Conventible 1860 Cat & Factorie 5658 5858 d833 (Accum Units) 2660	0 144.7 519 American 12702 198.99 0.23 0 307.0 518 European 124.66 132.71 d0.83	Mountheten House, Chathern, Kard, ME4 4.5F Tel: 01834 836000 Dealing: 01834 834313	(Accum Urins) 1448 1532 d377 Therapy 2517 d671	Prudented Equity Inc. 9014 9689 457 Equity 83850 88889 25 Prudented European 252.08 25122 088	(Accum Units) 94.32 98.34 0.99 Japan Smili Cos 37.78 39.35 0.10	Mingd Inc & Gith Acc 10291 10848 1.37 Discretionary Portiolo 5740 6106 0.00 Pacific Growth Portiolo 5298 6636 d0.72
broome Builder 8720 7168 d55 (Accum Units) 6607	7035 000 Euro Sel Opps 19640 19630 000 7059 000 American Emerging 5005 18048 000	Balanced Inc 39050 40480 271 Balanced Acc 88820 94480 271	Trustee 4230 4470 479 (Accum Units) 1770 872 479	High Income 9051 9628 530 and Grah 21601 22979 083	(Accum Units) 38.10 38.68 0:10 Mngd Belanced 214.64 223.68 02.83	UK Growth Acc 8853 9205 1.34 UK income inc 5640 6000 3.28
Growth Trusts - LIK (Accum Uhas) 1425	5 1512 049 Japan 24432 25843 000	Belimoed Acc 888.20 944.90 271 Conf Europe Grinc 75.92 78.92 0.80 Conf Europe Gr Acc 81.90 85.90 0.00 Eutra income inc 276.20 293.80 4.99	Martin Currie Unit Trusts List 20 Custle Terrace,	Inti Sm Co 9312 9906 0.58 Japanese 22147 22950 0.00	(Accum Units) 25048 26091 0283 Oversees Equity 21656 22758 1.17 (Accum Units) 22829 23750 117	UK Growth Acc 8853 9205 1.34 UK Income Inc 9840 6000 328 UK Income Acc 8643 9196 328 UK Smeller Cos 3953 4205 177
Capital 532.1 1409 t2.03 Exampt Belanced 72.21 Grant Acc 3963 422.7 215 (Accum Units) 78.21 Leleure (1) 192.5 173.8 1.03 Erns income 9860 Receivery 4542 4864 2.68 (Accum Units) 5538	1 7359 289 Pacific Growth 22562 242.57 0.00 7828 2.89 Gartmoru Puntelone Strategy Plands 5 5984 d572 Menaged Equity 22890 239.80 222	Extra income inc 27520 29380 419 Extra income Acc 74300 79050 419 FT-SE 100 mg 1930 12040 2288	Edinburgh, E-11 2ES Tai- orth 229 8252, Danting, 0131 479 4848	Nm Amer 232:15 94080 114 Pacific Mos 1891 12425 028	(Accum Units) 228.29 237.90 117 O'sees Smir Cols 144.24 150.25 thu4 (Accum Units) 152.02 158.35 thu4	Thornton Unit Managers Ltd Sweet House, 33 Queen Street, London EC4A IAX
Lalaure   (1)   192.6   173.8   1.03   Enns Income   9960	8050 d372 Long lerro Sel 28344 28344 304	FT-SE 100 Acc 1520 12250 238 Germen Browth mg 13840 14360	Int income 6000 8512 0391 European (2) 9858 1045 0079	Premier Inc 4758 4963 634 Sm Cos 10639 11318 139 Spec Shs 12271 13054 255	Pecific 28126 29299 124 (Accum Units) 31080 32376 124	7et 0171-248 3000, Dealing: 0171 248 3001 Drescher Europe Bd 44.09 4589 d81
Smit Cus Acc 6097 6536 216 Presented 1580 Smit Cus Inc 5255 8259 215 (Accum Units) 1572 Streen Sm 2543 3789 215 (Ar Trust 6383	65.82 003 UK Emerging Cols 16706 16706 185	German Growth Acc 14300 15060 Growth Portfolio Inc 62070 68040	Income 8042 8537 0484 Nyh American (z) 8337 9487 039 Fer East (z) 1775 1884 003	UK Growth 138.56 14740 210	Recovery 2/81/70 2274/68 (33/9 )	(Accum Units) 70:00 73:70 d63 European 32151 356.65 d0.7
Social Str. 378.3 S78.9 1.75 (Bir Trust 48.88) Growth Trusts - Overseas America - Overseas - America - Overseas - Overseas - America - Overseas	0 96.93 609 Amencen 306.96 306.96 d112 2 2844 0.00 Japan 1224 d100 2 2844 0.00 European 322.04 322.04 d100	Growth Portfolic Acc 62920 660.00 High Internet Inc 9422 9754 d8.01 High Internet Acc 9658 100.10 801	Japan 6006 63.66 d Emergeng Warkets 86.65 94.71 d	Save & Prosper Securities Ltd 19-72 Western Road, Rossford, Essex R&ff 3US	(Accum Units) 22312 23242 339	(Accum Unies) 32701 342,41 d0.7 Examps 615,97 643,69 2.9
Aust 42 2718 2914 207 Income 8 Growth 2985	9 man 4 mag   beat   belond (20h   17670   17670   17979	High Internet Acc 9859 10010 801 Income Inc 52380 563.70 3.47 Income Acc 146800 263.00 3.47	Int Growth 1261 1339 077	Tel: 01708-758965 Amer Inc & Gwith 88.71 9544 3.30	UK Small Coh 12966 135.06 d2.63 (Accum Unite) 142.34 148.27 d2.63 US 9mir Coe 62.74 .65.35 0.54	(Accum Units) 2106.94 2203.88 28 Globel Emerging Micro 85.15 89.16 03 (Accum Units) 93.10 97.57 01
Austine 866 1757 207 (Accum Unite) 3387 Euro Gwrth Acc 804 2022 080 Ind Growth 452 Euro Gwrth Inc 1763 873 083 (Accum United) 4511	2 4429 000 Amer Emerging Cqs 34968 34968 d000	Income Portiolio Inc 538.70 57420 4.54 Income Portiolio Acc 582.30 630.20 4.54 Jacome Growth Inc 108.30 116.30	Agien Opportunities 3997 42.75 030 UK Smaller Cos 55.84 59.28 147	Armer Smitr Cos 142.2 151.3 d Asien Smaller Cos 4504 4791	(Accum Unite) 64.18 66.64 Q54 Singer & Friedlander Inv Punds Ltd	Japan 761 7952 8326 (Accum Units) 7952 8326
Johan & Gen Acc 504 1977 Japan & Gen - 1751	1 488.2 MONO   Index Street Incoln 191.27 161.27 d034	Jacon Growth Acc 10870 1570	Global Growth PEP 58.98 62.61 0.75 Navyton Pund Managers Ltd	UK & Overses 1900 2021 122	21 New Street, London, 25:244 4487 Tel: 0171 867 8777, Dealing: 0171 825 6226	Little Dragons 9830 x02.72 (Accum Lines) x0099 406.78
Appart Spec 9ths 7tm 7533 Mgs Distribution inc 52,31 Westburde 990,7 202,5 0,63 (Accum Units) 54,92	BADS d442   Index Strat Conff Eul 17907 17217 01.76	Master Bust Inc 8527 6944 117 Master Bust Acc 745 7889 117 Accuracy & Gen Inc 23500 25000 061	71 Gueen Vistoria St, London EC4 4DR Chants 0500 560000 Broker 0500 560000	Cash 1321 1321 576 Chine Dragon 6307 6710 148 Commodity 1509 1605 d	American Growth 12600 12800 Aziac 8566 6588	Nth Amer Gurth 29051 30419 0.6 (Accum Units) 38454 381,71 0.6 Oriental Income 48 32 5059 3.2
*Also known as income Manager PEP Monaged Porticito inc 1149 Barlog Fund Missagers Ltd Monthly Income 1825	129.8 1.75 Oversess Bond Bristogy 106.44 106.44 15.98	American & Gen Inc 235.00 250.00 061 American & Gen Acc 271.60 289.20 061 Am Sm Coe & Rec Inc 187.00 19820	Dealing 0500 440000 American 5048 5370 0.00 American Acc 5088 543 0.00	Eastern Discovery 108.4 T5.2 Emercing Markets 36.57 41.03	European 15865 15865 0.30 Global Bond 9501 9501 786 Semural 5541 5643	Nth Amer Gueth 25051 30419 0.6 (Acaum Units) 88454 38171 0.6 (Acaum Units) 88454 38171 0.6 (Acaum Units) 8625 6837 34 (Acaum Units) 8625 6837 34 91 3613 00
PO Sci 531, 199 (Rehopages). Querterly income 5429 (Sector Policy Income 5429)	5823 d443 Menaged Equity 11246 11954 - 695 d443 Med Pero Balanced 10258 10871 -	Am Sm Cos & Rea Acc 19100 20320 Pacific Basin Inc 27770 29550 d034	910ge 38.26 10240 245 Cort Arr 5740 5740 549	Europeen Gwa 2598 2539 D/7	Semural 55.61 55.61 Sterling Reserve 101.23 101.23 6.05 Tei Pan 104.36 104.38	
America: Growth 1237 1507 on Recovery . 3497	7 SPUD d0.75 Long Term Balanced 198.31 125.86 - 3 446.5 d0.75 UK Equity 128.57 136.77 -	Peolific Begin Acc 295.80 314,70 0.14 Smallr Cop & Rec Inc 485.20 492.90 162	Distributor 9843 10481 (3.04	Euro Smit Cos 6741 71,71 QTI	UK Growth 10654 10654 236 UK Emerging Leaders 10808 10819 2.77	Tiper 30400 3/632 (About Units) 3/938 33442 UK Blue Chip 7/51 7/87 20 (Accum Units) 7/59 6/66 20
Conventibles 5797 (225 49 UK Grown Units) 8549	6957 205 American 141,70 150,80 ·	LIK Fourty Grounds 163.30 18300 02.72	Foundation 104.27 110.83 2.58	Exemps Income 1476 1504 d383 Extra Income 5450 5629 d821 Financial Secs 2632 2600 0.91	Preferred Income 10430 10430 5.73 UK Equity Income 11285 11286 5.34	IK Growth 85804 63459 24
Scurly Income 9080 9710 3.8 Friends Provident Unit Treat European Grown 3428 3644 0.8 sth Floor		UK Equity income 12330 ISU0 424 UK Growth Inc 9855 10270 197 UK Growth Acc 1590 12780 197	270.00 200.01 HD36	Git 8 Fad by Inc 47.69 5034 0781 Gold & Evolutation 1091 1163 d	Singer & Friedlander Unit More Ltd	100 to 100 to 100 77 11400 51
Europe Select 3075 3276 19 Enterprise New, learning Brunel Exercit 9955 1025 30 Portaneuto Henta PO1 2AM	index Linked Git 7809 5906	Workshide Growth Inc. 36560 37830	Growth Acc 10783 14849 233	High Return 2478 2534 423   High field 2494 2553 359	European Trust 8105 8620 107 Far Eastern Tel 7097 7550 0.26	100 to 200 200 200 201 201 26
Exempt Fixed Increas: 1015 1026 8.0 Exquirins: 01705 801340 Desiing: Comman Growth 84.02 8971 05 FP Managed Portloido Sandio Males Bono 68.86 72.48 65 FP American 68.03 Gebru Growth 1438 63.2 04 (Accum Linis) 65.32	Emerging Muskers 4778 5083 -	Premier Examps 163.50 17100 310	University Sept. 3586 3805 536	ted Board 9007 (784 of 60)	Global Growth PEP 7267 7730 127 Investment Trust PEP 5829 5722 000 Preferred Income 1019 1077 550	(Accum Units) 566.22 590.90 2.5 UK Smitr Cos 198.45 12669 008 (Accum Units) 161.46 151.29 008 UK Smaler Cos Drv 88.96 9315 5.7
Comman Growth         84.02         89.01         05         FP Manneged Portfolio Sanrifo           Class Bond         68.85         72.48         65         FP América         68.51           Global Growth         49.85         63.22         04         (Accum Linus)         65.32           John Growth         2007         244.2         00         FP Euro Gm         528.00           Jacken Sumtide         82.8         77.3         00         (Accum Linus)         200.00	6948 GAD BINN Intervenience 150.05 16729 (IDRI	European Acc 21250 2210 151   Far Eastern Acc 7505 8225 169	Income 29391 29486 337 International Bond 12493 5187 583 International Bond 12493 5485 583 Interplid 12493 4545 189 Jacon 2889 2839 000	Japan Growth 1733 1844	Smaler Cos 2640 2995 (1)	UK Smaller Cos Drv 8896 9315 5.7 (Accum Units) 16240 17005 5.7
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#### A SPECIAL REPORT

### COURIER AND EXPRESS SERVICES

# Clients hand over more than packages



Richard Gabriel, the former motorcycle courier who sold his Interlink franchise company for £50 million, has rejoined the courier fold. He has made a substantial investment in Mercury SpeedLink, a fledgling overnight express parcels service based in North York-

while this may be nf only the industry, it underlines two emerging trends: the increasing success of franchising and the growth of the next-day market, both at home and abroad.

Next-day delivery rose by 15 per cent in a market whose overall growth was around 7 per cent. Three days is now seen as too long to wait for many goods
- a fact reflected in the decline of the three-day market by a significant 10 per cent.

The big grnwih is in

computer-type industries, processing and manufacturing "says Peter Wigglesworth, general manager UK marketing for Parcelforce, the Post Office division which retains the line's division which retains the lion's

Couriers are moving towards wider service, says Lynne Curry

share of the British market, and which continues to carry for more than 90 per cent of the UK's higgest companies. "It's also the fact that companies are holding fewer stocks.

Mercury SpeedLink was set up to capture a share of this next-day market hy David Jacohs, a former freight forwarder whn was part of the team which put together Group Four's Nightspeed service. "To give a level of service, it has to be in the hands of the people that are controlling it," Mr Jacobs says. "If the directors don't have the wherewithal to want to give that service, the company never will. They look at the bottom line and the volume and not at the service. We have the owner-operator

Mercury now has more than 30 franchises and claims, through its "quality first" philosophy and investment in hespoke information tech-

nology, to have rekindled Green party, which has orches-Richard Gahriel's enthusiasm trated a campaign to limit for the parcels husiness. "His first commeot when he sat down was, 'I've seen ennugh parcels to last me a lifetime", Mr Jacobs says, "but we relit the

Reliability from couriers is paramount when companies find it cheaper to have spare parts and stock express-delivered than to hold it in their own warehouses. But this hrings its own problems. This way of operating, and the courier industry's willingness to serve it, is attracting ever-louder critgrounds. No longer can the expansion of the courier industry be viewed in isolation from this by-product.

Paul Jackson, chief executive of industry consultants Triangle Management Services, says integrators are facing a greater likelihood of being his by nighttrated a campaign to limit night-flights at Cologne airport -forcing TNT to shift to Liege in Belgium - has kick-started a campaign unlikely to stop at Road conriers are also

coming under pressure to address the effect of their mileage. Parcelforce has appointed its first full-time environment officer and major couriers are looking at fuel consumption, cleaner fuels and alternatives to diesel. A part-solution is shared loads and "middle order" and

"added value" tailoring. Lynx, the parcels subsidiary of NFC, which turns over £80 million a year, will take over warehousing, stock-holding or dedi-cate staff to oversee particular parts of the customer's business.

Ahru Aluminium, which manufactures ladders in Cornwall, uses Lynx not only to deliver its goods, hut 10 carry

and to manage the warehouse on Abru's behalf, A small fleet of dedicated vehicles, working on shared use, collects compo-nents and delivers parts for truck manufacturers ERF. Andy Holder, Lynx's

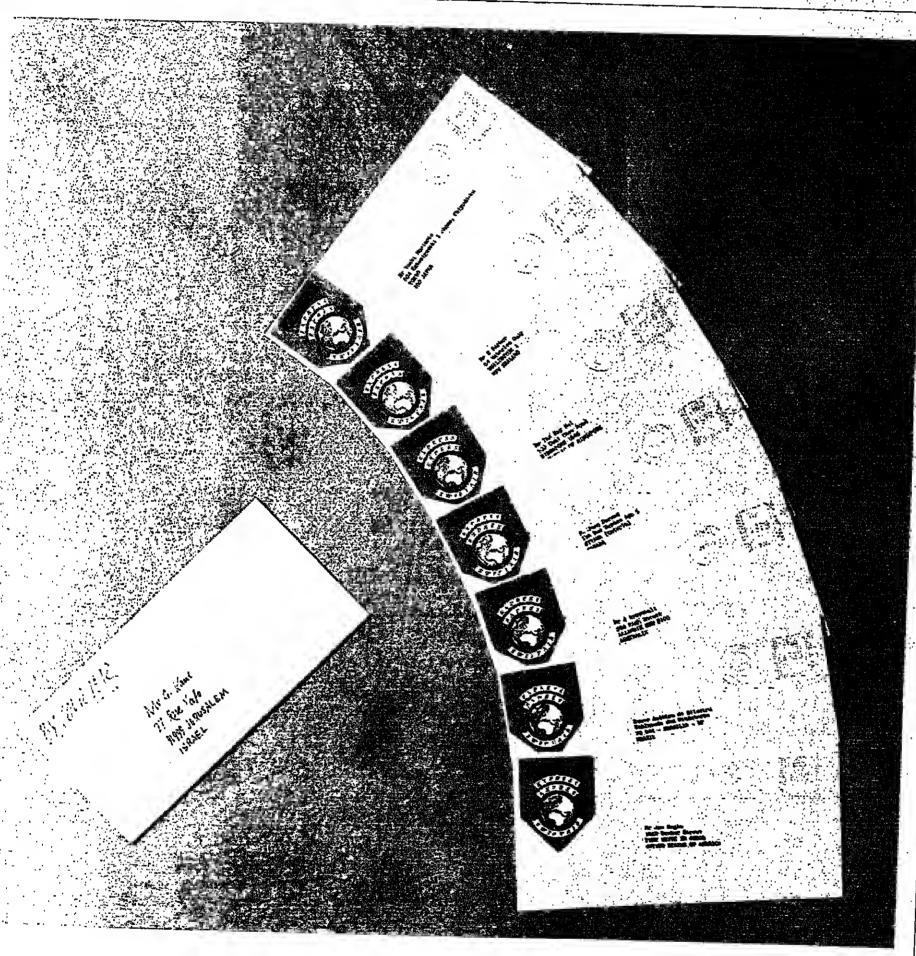
spokesman, says businesses are looking for ways to hive off their non-core activities, including the mail room, and Lynx has benefited from its willingness to move everything from an envelope to a pallet.
"The trend nowadays is towards giving the customer exactly. what they want for their own particular operation. Off-theshelf solutions still appeal to some companies, but a great deal more flexibility is required now to be successful."

Some 4,000 companies are now jostling in the UK to gain this competitive edge. It is not, as Peter Wigglesworth says, an industry which can rely on customer loyalty - most busi-

nesses have three or four carriers - and Parcelforce's dominant share of the market is a mere six per cent.

Greater segmentation is leaving some areas of the market in the hands of specialists. White Arrow has moved in oo the home delivery market, along with other home-delivery services such as Littlewoods Home Express and Freemans Speedlink. Parcelforce's place at the head of the league is under attack from TNT, Securicor and Omega Express.

Couriers in this country have been slow to leap on to the train to Europe. According to Tim Weeks, UK automotive manager for UPS, which had six intermodal containers delivered last year, the infrastructure is lacking this side of the Channel. The longer the trip, the more effective the method of travel by train becomes. There's no doubt that there's a case for using trains in the country once the infrastructure is there, but the goods have to



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### Technology and discipline get the goods out

LYNNE CURRY

Jackie Billington's businessiike manner has come in useful for . her new role as central services manager for couriers Mercury SpeedLink. If she gets a complaint from a customer, she levies a £10 penalty oo the depot in charge of the consign-

After the shock of being told to pay a fine, her first victim sat down to work out his reactiont. "As I said to him," Mrs. Billington said, from her desk at the company hub in Rugby, "it wasn't his fault; he should have passed the charge back to the driver, and if he'd done that, it wouldn't have happened again." The concept of devolved responsibility is a strong tenet at Mercury Speedfink, a year-old franchised overnight delivery company which is being substantially backed by Richard Gabriel, founder of Interlink Express, who sold Interlink in

1994 for £50 million. The managing director, David Jacobs, says he accepts that inevitably, some packages will miss their schedule, but if the company hears of problems and contacts the customer, this usually not only saves the situation but impresses the customer. We want to be proactive and phone our customers if we get deliveries wrong, or can foresee delays. We want depots to train their drivers to radio in about breakdowns or delays. No other couriers would dare to do it but we believe most couriers work on the same basis of trying to get away with it; that if If they don't tell the customer, the customer

won't find out. This ends up costing us more."

Hands-on couriers such as gate glitches in this way. It uses hand-held lasers which match the depot code with the codes oo the cages. Mistakes by human eye at this stage are a common cause of misrouting.

Larger operators are turning more to technology to minimise their frequency and, where human error creeps in, to enable the customer to see exactly where the parcel is. As one of the 10 sponsors of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, UPS is also the official supplier of package and distributions services. Having successfully delivered invitations to 197 countries to take part in July, and managed not to cause a diplomatic incident by missing anyone out, it now has the more complicated job of handing 11 million highly-desirable tickets.

"You can imagine the results if they fell into the wrong hands," Annie Garthwaite, the company's European public relations director, says.

To ensure that each consign ment of tickets is tracked, UPS has installed a closed-loop package system that gives the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games direct access into UPS's delivery information, which is carried on a "maxi code", a sophisticated bar code. The code is monitored at every stage - right up to delivery, at which the package is signed for on an electronic cliphoard immediately transmitted electronically. The sender is also faxed this proof of delivery.

### Next day to US is a winner

LYNNE CURRY

Full-page broadsheet advertisements trumpeting one delivery service do not come cheap. But UPS thought it was worth it for Express Plus, offering delivery to 100 cities across America by 8am the

next day.

Colin Beesley, UPS's UK marketing director, says the removal of borders in Europe has speeded up deliveries to the continent, and customers now

expect a faster service to the US.

We have been surprised who uses it," Mr Beesley says. We knew financial services wanted a service like that, but we have also taken promotional items for photographic shoots and other stuff that hasn't been where it should have been.

Paul Jackson, of industry consultants Triangle Management Services, says that fast delivery to the US is now well established, but this has not stopped couriers moving in to claim a share. Last year Marken Worldwide Express, a small company based in Isleworth, Middlesex, doubled its turnover to more than £6 million partly on the back of what it claims to be the fastest service to the United States. It offers scheduled same-day services, taking advantage of the time lapses over the Atlantic to deliver the package eight hours after it is picked up in Britain.

Since it was established in 1980 by its two current direc-

tors, Ken Powell and Mark Adams, Marken has enjoyed an average annual growth rate of 20 per cent, but this year's exceptional 100 per cent, at a time of keen competition in the courier market, is put down to its philosophy of finding of the courier market.

its philosophy of finding niche markets and developing them. It offers scheduled same-day services to more than 70 cities in the US and Europe, and is used to carrying consignments connected with the music, film,

TV and newspaper industries.
Parcelforce, the parcels division of the Post Office, also has plans to move into fast services to North America, while Federal Express already offers next-day service.

A sign of growth in this industry is UPS's decision to cut the premium for by 8am delivery to £35 irrespective of the weight of the consignment. This makes the cost of an

ingent document around £50. But according to David But according to David Jacobs, managing director of Mercury SpeedLink, a franchised overnight express profels service based in Ilkley, North Yorkshire, the benefits of bargain rates have tended to stay within the M25.

The rating bands within the M25 are ridiculous because there are thousands of courier

there are thousands of courier companies, all offering cheap overnight services to New York When you start moving out into the provinces these rates more than double. We can offer London rates to somebody in

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COURIER AND EXPRESS SERVICES

Size isn't everything when it comes to running a successful

"Because we're smaller than the big boys we can be more flexible," says Peter Jordan, sales manager of Marken Worldwide Express. "We offer, for example, a same-day service to Europe and the United States. If you call in the morning we can pick up a package by 11am and get it delivered in Paris hefore 5.30om. For the States, we would pick up around 6am - but

we'd get it there that afternoon. Yes, it's expensive - hut it's a lot less expensive than sending it via an on-board courier or taking it yourself. And often that's the only alternative.'

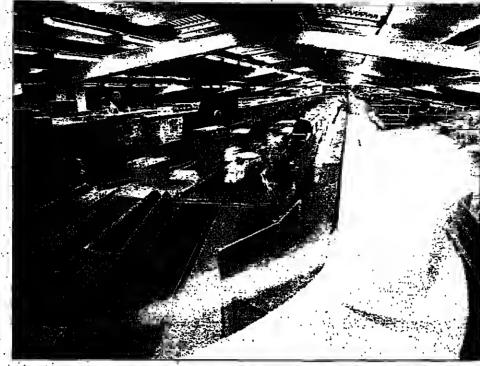
The continued success of the smaller courier companies in the face of increasing competition is generally down to niche marketing. Marken, which was one of the first small independent couriers when it was set up in 1981, has grown in the past 15 years. Turnover tiast year was up to £6.4 million, hut the company remains committed to providing a flexible and personal service from Technology; discipline the goods

its base in Isleworth. Customers who find its services invaluable include those working in the news and entertainment industries where deadlines are all important when master tapes, television footage or negatives are

concerned.

Marken operate worldwide, but other independents concen-trate on the UK market. Peter Wigglesworth, general manager UK Parcelforce, admits that customers can afford to pick and choose. "We have something like 4,000 competitors in the UK if you include the companies that are little more than someone with a van. The smaller companies tend to focus on a particular service that meets a particular need, or they restrict operations to a small local area which means they can keep their costs down

"The competition is good for



Fast track: courier companies need to be constantly efficient to keep customers

eries but we wanted to set up

a system where all communi

cations from our customers

were dealt with through

Gateway. That way you don't

have people falling between two

information about a delivery we

can give it to them by accessing

Now if a customer wants

stools.

the huyer but it can he tough for the supplier. We are the biggest, but we still only have 25 per cent of the market share and it is hard to see how some of the smaller companies will survive, Franchising - as Amtrak does - may be one answer."

If the smaller operators pride themselves on the good relationship they have with their customers, so, too, do the giants. In 1994 TNT linked up with Analog Devices, an international manufacturer of elec-

tronic components. Previously the company had relied on different carriers to supply products to different locations, with resulting variations in levels of service and delivery times. They were often unable to track consignments and had little flexibility or control over the supply chain.

By forming an exclusive part-nership with TNT Express Worldwide they were able to improve the service to their

Another example of the UPS tracking system. UPS customer and courier getting also have access to our system and can update us regularly. So closer together can be found in Dublin, the European hase of Gateway 2000, an American we can call a customer to let them know their order has been shipped or to warn them if there is likely to he a delay company who have been directselling computer hardware because of bad weather. across Europe for the past two and half years.

"An additional bonus is that, UPS not only ship 3,000 although we have security packages for them a day, but have set up an on-line customer help desk in their office, complete with a dedicated member of UPS staff, to answer customer queries on the delivery status of a package. Paula Weir, Gateway 2000's

controls when accepting credit cards, there are occasional instances involving fraud. UPS have been able to alert us when an address does not seem kosher - and so far they've made the right call every time." customer service manager says: "UPS always handled our deliv-

### When small is beautiful |EU single market cuts out most bottlenecks, aids next-day mail

The introduction of the single market and the dismantling of trade barriers in Europe have hrought new challenges for the express distribution industry. Before January 1993 it was difficult for courier and express services to guarantee next-day morning deliveries. Although in was possible to get packages from one place to another quickly by air, many countries within the European Community bad detailed customs formalities which meant that it could take up to three hours to process in-bound clearances

In France or Italy, for instance, although an aircraft arrived at 6am, the goods might not be released from Customs until later that morning. As a result deliveries could not normally be made until the afternoon. However, changes in customs procedures have now given express delivery companies the ability to offer guaranteed morning deliveries - by 9am in major cities. As as result business is hooming and the costs have started to come down, As Gareth Thomas, UPS Europe, International Express Manager points out: "Transport by air is considerably faster than by road, hut one of the main harriers to the customer has been cost. With the growth of the movement of goods by air economies of scale are heing created which are now being fed through to the customer.

Even so, road-hased services

also continue to grow. Ricky

Fiander, UK operations director at DHL points out that when speed is not an overriding factor, moving consignments by road makes sense. "It's cheaper and it's easier to make contingency plans. If an airport is fog-bound there's not much you can do." Martin Lomas, European has also built new depots in market sector manager at Parcelforce, agrees that road transport can give more flexi-bility. "With air, every second

counts. With road you have more time. But we have a very good record with our nightly flights from our UK operational hub at Coventry. One of the reasons we are there is because the airport has the best fog record in the whole country. In fact, the main players in the industry are investing in both road and air networks as their operations expand. TNT, for example, is investing 40

million on a new European air huh at Liege in Belgium to take over from Cologne, where a 2 million investment has already enabled them to double the "sortation" capacity: 15,000 pieces can now be handled an hour, compared to a previous

Liege has heen chosen hecause the airport is not congested, the area around it sparsely populated, road access is good and the site has expan-

sion capabilines.

TNT is also using the Channel tunnel route into Europe and bas recently opened a new depot in the

Gatwick area to cater for the

increasing demands of the

general manager. Marketing TNT Express Worldwide, says: The Channel tunnel has given us added capacity for overnight deliveries to Northern Europe providing greater flexibility and more time definite services."

Since the end of 1993 TNT

Europe to meet customer demands. These include three in the UK at Croydon, Stansted and London City airport. DHL is another company expanding its sites to enable it to get closer to its customers. In 1922 they had 22 local stations in the UK, now they have 43. Consignments are taken hy courier to the local station where they are sorted into destinations and then sent on to the nearest hub. The company's main buh in Europe is based in Brussels, but there are smaller hubs in the East Midlands, Copenbagen, Nuremherg, Cologne, Begamot, Paris, Lyons and

Road and air transport networks are improving all the time, the obstacles involved in customs clearance - and the paperwork that went with that bave been swept away. So are there still any hottlenecks?

"Not within the EU." says DHL's Ricky Fiander. "Elsewhere in the world some countries have customs regimes which are not, perbaps, geared to deal with the volumes which have rapidly increased over the past few years. And in some countries where they are trying to protect home markets -

be lengthy procedures rather than fast track clearance.

Martin Lomas of Parcelforce says that hold-ups within Europe can still occur if the customer has used insufficient packaging or given an incom-plete address. "Even so, we've got access to more delivery addresses than any other carrier.

Gareth Thomas of UPS confirms that problems with customs clearance tend only to occur in less developed coun tries. However, when it comes to Europe he believes that there is one remaining bottleneck slowing down the use of air transport and that is linked to the issue of ground handling.

"Express operators already perform self handling at sclected European airports such as Brussels, Barcelona, London Heathrow, Amsterdam and Copenbagen. Elsewhere, handling is carried out by airport staff and not necessarily the carrier.

"Air express and air cargo are often ideally situated in smaller airports where freighter aircraft do not have to compete with passenger aircraft for slots and where road transport connecnons are least congested. We think the carrier should he given the opportunity to handle their own goods at all airports.It would speed things up and help us provide a fast and seamless service." be says.

"In many airports ground handling is a monopoly - and monopolies don't lead to the best service or the best price.

### Industry takes green gripes on board

Courier companies are registering growing public concern about the environmental effect of their expanding market.

More vehicles on the roads mean more noise and more pollution. In some husy streets London's are among the worst carbon monoxide, a colourless, odourless and lethal gas, exceeds World Health Organisation limits:

Particulates, another significant emission, increase the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular disease and are. thought to kill 10,000 Britons every year. Just under half is emitted by road vehicles, and diesels, which now comprise the vast majority of the commercial road fleet, emit about 10 times as much as petrol vehicles.

And there is noise pollution from night flights. The industry, propelled by European legis lation and public pressure, is having to take notice. TNT announced last month

that it was to pull out of its European air huh at Cologne and move to a £40 million new hub in Liege Belgium. The announcement noted that US is a W Liege allowed night flights, and was in a sparsely populated area, but it did not refer to another big reason for the shift the powerful German Green party, which has led a strong campaign against night flights.

Next day

TNT owns 28 aircraft, six of them based in the UK, and flies at night from Belfast, Birm-ingham, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Stansted, It claims that its fleet of BAe 146 "whisper jets" is probably the quietest freight fleet in existence. This aircraft is the only one allowed into urban airports like London City and Bromma, Stockholm.

On the ground, public concern has also persuaded TNT to remove all the front bull bars from its fleet of 325 vehicles. Barry Sheldon, UK general manager, says the company responded to concerns about road safety and took the decision last autumn.

The environmental card is also being played by UPS. Last year, it introduced a team of walking couriers hased in Holborn, stressing their speed and efficiency in densely-plicked business areas. Now the team is promoted for its green credentials as well as its effi-

ciency.
Parcelforce, Britain's biggest carrier, still owned by the Post Office, has appointed its first full-time environment manager. Andrea Barnard is responsible for attacking four areas energy consumption, pollution, waste and the consumption of natural. resources. Last year,



Pollution levels in some areas of Britain exceed the World Photograph: Steve Morgan Health Organisation limits

Parcelforce won the Motor Transport magazine environ-mental award for its tractor unit fuel consumption of 9.5 miles per gallon, achieved by aerodynamics, good maintenance and driver training.

It has fitted speed limiters of 55mph on tractor units in advance of restrictions of 60mph - contributing to a fuel saving of £300,000 within two years. A new bar code labelling system has reduced the amount of paper in documentation by 80 per cent, and its targets cover improving miles per gallon, reducing CO2 emissions and fuel consumption of both vehi-cles and buildings. "We are well known in the industry for our efforts to lessen the impact we have on the environment," Ms

Heavily-polluting diesel may not always remain the dominant fuel, especially in towns and cines. Alternatives are proving promising, but expensive, not least because of duty imposed on fuels in UK.

Barnard says.

The first compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle in Europe, a van owned by UPS, is currently running between Isleworth and Westminster. Vehicles which run on CNG emit 90 per cent less carbon monoxide and significantly less nitrogen oxide than conventional diesel

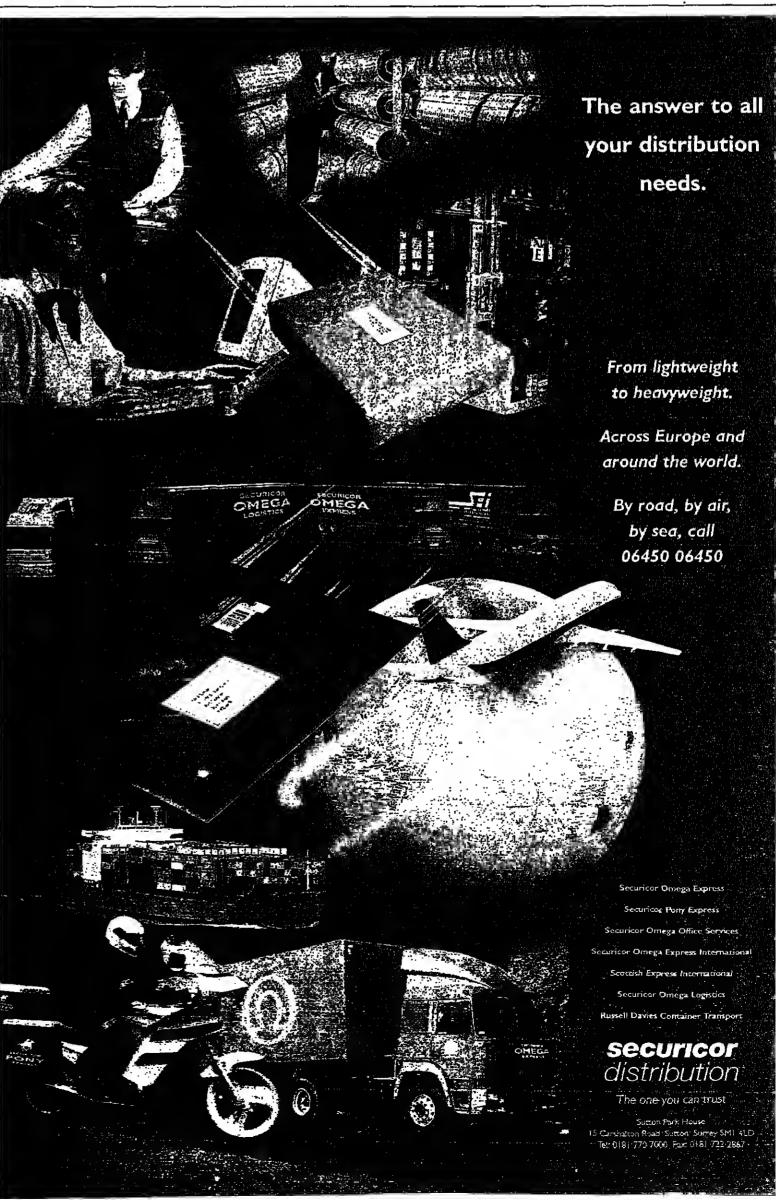
engines. Tim Weeks, UPS's British automotive manager, says what comes out of the adapted Ford Transit van looks like vapour add some £1,800 to the price of and people can breathe it at each one and therefore will add close range without keeling to the cost of courier services.

over. The reason there are not more of these around is that the running cost and the whole-life cost of the van are more expen sive, and we wanted to be able to quantify that. The Chancellor did start to move in the last Budget on natural gas and reduced the duty by 15 per cent, but it still doesn't make it more cost-effective."

UPS has been testing tractor units powered by liquefied natural gas in Houston, Texas, and has discovered a 66 per cent reduction in nitrogen oxides and an 80 per cent reduction in particulates. In the US, it has 280 CNG vehicles on the road, with plans to triple that number before next year Mr Weeks says public

rumhlings about the number of delivery vehicles on the roads and the damage they may be doing are acknowledged by the industry. "We are tremendously aware of the pollution problem and have taken considerable steps to minimise it." A new emission regulation

the Euro 2, comes into effect in August this year, imposing new controls on commercia fleets. TNT says it has fitted engines which comply with this regulation on its vehicles since 1994, at a cost of haif a million pounds. In 1998, Euro 3, imposing tighter controls on missions, will come into effect. Manufacturers will then be anable to sell vehicles without compliant engines, which will

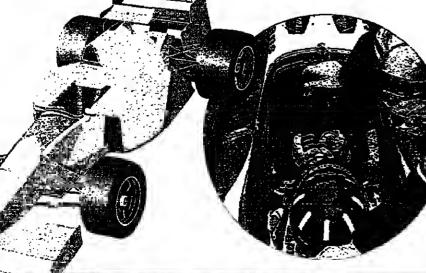




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SCHEDULE March 31 **Brazilian GP** Argentinian GP April 28 European GP San Marino GP Monaco GP June 2 Spanish GF June 16 Canadian GP June 30 French GP British GP July 28

German GP August 11 Hungarian GF August 25 Beigian GP September 8 Italian GP September 22 Portuguese GP October 13 Japanese GF



The waiting is over: after the hype

and hoopla of the close season, the fantasies of Dream Team managers

became reality in Melbourne.

Damon Hill wore the victor's laurels,

but his team-mate Jacques Vil-

leneuve came up trumps with the

Dream Team points. A one-two for

the Williams drivers means plenty of

**The Dream Team** 

manager with the highest

Championship season will

win our top prize - a drive

You will be flown to the

number of points at the

end of the Grand Prix

in a 650bhp F1 car.

AGS team's training

school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

points to share out among Dream

Team managers who selected one or more of Hill, Villeneuve, Williams

and Renault for their package. Hill

top-scored in the morning warm-up

session to take his total points score

to 27, but that is no more than is to

The other expensive superstars.

si, proved poor value for money in

Melbourne. Among the bargain

basement drivers, Mika Salo and Pe-

dro Diniz stand out, with 15 and 10

points respectively. The Finnish

Tyrrell driver looks a good bet for

more high-scoring finishes this sea-

son. Diniz's place at Ligier owes more

to the size of his wallet than the mag-

nitude of his talent, but the wealthy

Brazilian knows how to stay out of

trouble and is sure to register plen-

Williams predictably dominate in

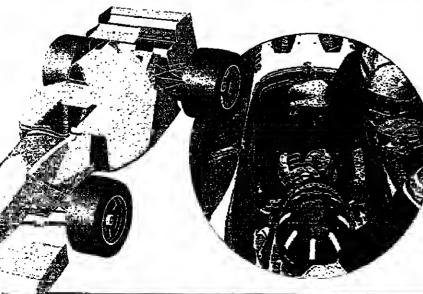
the chassis department, where

ty of finishes.

WIN a drive in a

Grand Prix car

be expected from a £23m man.



Out of our Burton Racing top 50 ■ Duffden Rug 3 Totham Turbos

The latest scores and results

The Canadian rookie, son of the great

Gilles, dominated his first Grand Prix,

taking pole position, setting the

fastest lap of the race and leading

until the final few laps, when a per-

his Renault engine and he was

forced to back off. But he was

Tyrrell's neat, reliable little car rep-

resents good value. But for Jordan

fans it was, in their driver Martin

Brundle's words, "the weekend from

hell". Brundle somersaulted spec-

tacularly out of the race on the first

lap, and lasted only a minute in the

restarted race. Brundle's team-mate

Rubens Barrichello also retired,

meaning a painful -5 for all Dream

PLAY FORMULA

DREAM TEAM

came joint 1st, each scoring 71 points.

The other 27 teams came joint 24th, each scoring 69 points.

More scores are being entered for this race, check the Results Phoneline for the latest information. The winner will be informed later



#### Speedy Squirrel Racing The Really Good

1 MWD

Team Red Roosters

1 Spanner Ballet

■ Dampo 1 T Calisto

Cor Look At

#### Dream Wood Racing

■ Virtual Reality

Racing Team

Hill Marker Road America Racing Endorphin I Piston Broke

Machine F1 Grid Lockers Soloman GP 24 Pacemaker

DRIVER OF THE DAY: JACQUES VILLENEUVE

Team managers who selected Jordan

chassis. Jordan's engine supplier,

Peugeot, was also the only major

manufacturer not to score well in

Now the circus moves on to In-

terlagos for the Brazilian Grand

Prix on 31 March. Will it be an ear-

ly-season double for Damon, a Fer-

rari first for Schumacher, or a

Melbourne.

50

delighted with second place, and

far-sighted Dream Team managers

who realised that the reigning In-

dycar champion was spectacular

value at £18m can feel justifiably

worth 31 points, the top driver so

in the Australian Grand Prix.

smug a Jacques in the box is

home-town maiden victory for

Rubens Barrichello? Dream on...

ister the week before the Brazilian

Grand Prix (March 31) in The

Independent and the Independent

on Sunday. You could win a trip to

Rules are as previously published.

24 Jacks The Lad

24 D M O Racing

24 Jones Phantom

24 Demon Dave

24 SEB Racing

24 Rag Racing

24 GT Racing 2

Carbon

24 The Hinde

24 The Famous

24 Russell Racing

**Enthusiasts** 

24 Kingsland GP

Five ·

24 Fifti Corsa

24 Enthusiastic

Car All Stars

24 Glowing

Racing Team 2

the San Marino Grand Prix.

Teams

Look out for your chance to reg-

Eurosport Formula 1 9 BBC5 24 Nino Racing Sammarc A 24 AK Racing

1 Suffolk and Fast 24 Manda G.P. ■ Mad Fleet 24 Strides Fliers

> 24 Dinky Racing 24 Carr **24** S.T.B. 2

> > 24 The Loose Wheel Nutts

24 Pistinbrock 7 24 Eddie Stowbart Racing

24 Tyrell Terrors 24 Josh Racing

#### Grand Prix Shopping List

AUSTRALIAN
GRAND PRIX:
DRIVERS POINTS SCORED

£25m 1 M Schumacher 4 G Berger 5 D Coulthard 7 J Villeneuv 8 M. Hakkinen 9 H H Frentzen £10m: 10 M Brundle 11 R Barrichello 13 M Salo 14 P Lamy 18 O Panis 19 L Badoer 20 R Rosset 21 A Montermini 22 G Fisichella 24 T Margues 29 F Lagorce 26 H Noda 28 M Blundell 29 J-C Boullion 31 K Burt 32 E Colland 33 N Fontana 34 D. Franchitti 35 N Larini

### AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX: CHASSIS POINTS SCORED

38 G Tarquini

39 K Wendlinger

£20m	٠.
40 Benetton	10
40 Benetton 41 Williams	20
42 Ferrari	
42 Terran	0
E15B	٠.
£15m 43 McLaren £14m	1
£14m	
44 Sauber	0
45 Jordan	-
£10m	_
46 Ligier	
46 Ligier	
47 Turnell	
47 Tyrrell £5m 4 4 7 7	2
<b>2011</b> (2011)	٠.
48 Arrows	3
48 Arrows	
49 Minardi	7
Einer State Local Value	5:

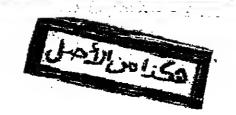
### **AUSTRALIAN**

50: Forti

ENGINE POINTS SCOR
£26m
51 Renault
52 Forms
52 Ferrari
53 Mercedes
214B
54 Peugeot
2700
55 Mugen
£8m
56 Formald 0
56 Ford V10
57 Yamaha
. 4-MIL
58 Hant
£3m
59 Ford Zetec V8
£2m
60 Ford ED V8

DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 891 805

# HELPLINE: 0171 602 9222



### sport

### The new stadium will hold 75,000. Are 22,000 extra places really worth the complete destruction of an excellent stadium?

It is no disrespect, I hope, to Mur-rayfield and Lansdowne Road to say that the final matches in the Five Nations Championship will be played at the two leading grounds in the British Isles: the Nanonal Stadium, Cardiff (still referred to by its old name, Cardiff Arms Park), and the Rugby Football Union's headquarters ground at Twickenham.

I regret I cannot join with my colleagues in the rugby-writing trade, or most of them - Frank Keating is the only exception I know - in praising the RFU's new construction. "Magnificent modern stadium" is the phrase most commonly brought into play. Well, it may be modern, and it is undoubtedly a stadium, but magnificent it most certainly is not.

ple. It possesses no atmosphere. With a capacity of 71,000 (74,000 if boxes are included) it is still a dead

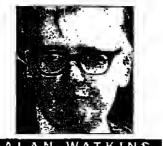
This is a characteristic which modern arenas often possess, even when they have nothing to do with sport. In the autumn I attend the conferences of the political parties. The Opera House, Blackpool, and the Pavilion, Scarborough, 19th century buildings both, have an atmosphere which is absent from the modern conference centres of Brighton, Bournemouth and elsewhere.

The reason why these new places lack atmosphere is the same as it is for Twickenham. There is no mystery about it. The action is too far away from the audience. This has an anaesthetising effect. There is no The fundamental trouble is sim-sense of the participation you still

feel at a large football ground such as Highbury Stadium or a cluh rug-by ground such as Stradey Park, Llanelli.

Twickenham has a further griev-ous fault. For not only is the banking of the seats insufficiently steep. Not only are the seats themselves too far removed from the pitch, so that from certain points the participants look like Subbuteo-sized rugby players. The stands have also been designed on the assumption that we

enjoy a Mediterranean climate. These great, open spaces would be admirable in Béziers. Montpellier or Narbonne. On a wet and windy January Saturday in Middlesex they are a less happy idea. Though television sets are provided, one for every two seats, in the press box, I should still prefer not



to be soaked when the wind is in the wrong direction.

I have, I may say, no great nos-talgia for the Twickenham of Obolensky's try or Louis Jones's dehut for Wales against England. The

Adrian Stoop do not haunt me. The old ground clearly had to change. My regret is that the change was not bet-

ter managed.

The Welsh Rughy Union did manage it at Cardiff. The passing of the old Arms Park was certainly not to be regretted. It seemed to be constructed largely of corrugated iron. The prudent spectator would hitch up his trousers a couple of inches to protect the bottoms from the urine which would flow copiously down the terraces like a Welsh mountain stream. He would, if really thoughtful, apply a coating of dubbin to his shoes beforehand for the same pro-

Those days went when the WRU, inspired by its then treasurer, Kenneth Harris, reconstructed the Arms

tective purpose.

Park, with the National Stadium on one side and a pitch for the Cardiff club on the other. Harris and his colleagues succeeded both in removing the many inconveniences of the old ground and in preserving the old atmosphere – even though the

singing may not be what it once was. I may be biased, because I always enjoy my visits to Cardiff. The train service is good, the ground is only minutes' walk from the station and I invariably meet old friends. Whether I shall continue to enjoy my occasional expeditions is more doubtful.

Fortified by a grant from the Mil-lennium Fund - so costing the Welsh National Opera its own grant for a new opera house - the stadium is to be entirely rebuilt on an axis turned by 90 degrees. In many years of writing about rugby. it is the great-

est piece of vainglorious folly that l can remember.

The reason is supposed to be that as Wales are hosts to the 1999 World Cup, a suitably grand stadi-um must he available for the Final. But what is wrong with the National Stadium as it is today? It holds 53,000. The new stadium will, it is planned, hold 75,000. Are 22,000 exira places really worth the complete

destruction of an excellent stadium? Not only do I foresee financial disaster on a colossal scale. Even if that is avoided, the WRU will no longer own its own ground, as it does to-day. For a majority holding will be taken by the South Glamorgan County Council. To allow that outcome, when the WRU will no longer be master of its own house, is folly

### Old hand prompting the Potters

Tonight's derby is special for Mike Pejic, the Stoke City coach. Phil Shaw reports

Aduring power of parochialism in football need look no further than Stoke-on-Trent, that cluster of communities in search of a city. Mike Pejic played in a League Cup final, three FA Cup semifinals, in Europe and for England, yet still regrets that he never appeared in a "proper"

Potteries derby.

A quarter of a century has elapsed since Pejic, now 46 and coach to Stoke City, first patrolled the left side of the Potters' defence. At times, they were the length of the league ahead of Port Vale; stylish es porcelam to Vale's plain earthenware. But even then, when either dropped in on the

neighbours, the crockery flew. There was an end-of-season match at Stoke in 1970, but you gave them. couldn't call it a friendly," recalled Peitc. whose own tackling could demolish a china shop. Vale won 3-2 and it was a bit spicy. There were a few stitch-

es flying about that night." He left Stoke for Everton seven years later, since when the gap between the local rivals has narrowed to the point where they meet regularly. Vale, indeed, have won the last two meetings on enemy soil, although there is more than tribal honour at stake

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: <del>- - -</del>

1.55

at Vale Park tonight. Stoke, fourth in the First Division, need the points in their push for the Premiership; Vale, 23rd, need the points to avoid falling perhaps two divisions behind them. Pejic, who ironically did much in tandem with John Rudge to challenge the status quo, will be alongside Lou Macari in the visitors' dug-ont. He might well have spent the evening on the other side of the

After six years with Vale came to a "sonr" end, which he has contested in court with initial success. Pejic had a spell in Kuwait and a stint as manager of impoverished Chester, Last

nyone doubting the en- September, he was within days of starting work as director of coaching for the state of Victoria when the call came from the Victoria Ground.

"I'm not saying I wouldn't have turned down Australia for any other club," he said, "but it would have had to be something very special. Stoke had a massive emotional pull for me; because I came here from the age of five with my dad. It's in the heart." Soon after Pejic's home-

coming, with Stoke struggling through an opening sequence of three wins in 14 games, the staff were summoned to a meeting. There were problems with a certain group of players and the atmosphere within the club wasn't right," he said. "Lou asked for our opinions and we

"He then made major deci-Which sorted out the ficult players. One went and the others were isolated. It showed that the staff were united and meant business."

The subsequent npturn has left Stoke hetter placed to regain their position in the top division than at any time since their dismal departure in 1985. Macari's teams tend to be portrayed as the antithesis of the sublimely skilled veterans who graced the stripes under Tony Waddington. Pejic, the link between the eras, argues that

comparisons are ill-conceived. "The game has changed so much in terms of rules, tactics and systems of play. We had great artists in the '70s side, but sometimes under-achieved. There's a real drive, a sense of purpose about the place now. When I played we had a back four of local lads - myself, Jack Marsh, Denis Smith and

Alan Bloor - with Gordon Banks behind us organising everything. But in midfield and up front we played it very much off the cuff. It was almost a team of two halves."



Lining them up: Mike Pejic prepares Stoke for tonight's vital match against Port Vale Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

That experience, while by no means turning him against flair, prompted Pejic's interest in coaching. Between jobs he has been in demand with the FA and is a devotee of Don Howe. whose dour image he calls "ridiculous". Macari, a kindred spirit, shares his standards on fit-

ness and discipline. "Lou works the players very hard. His thinking is that if they can't work or run, they're a waste of time. I'd say he did his homework on me in that re-

It is a mistake. Peric insists. to confuse their common outlook with an adherence to the long-ball game. As in the case of Howe, he feels public per-

ceptions are simplistic. Macari may like to get the ball forward quickly, hut once it is in the final third he prefers small, mohile forwards who are good at a new stadium. In the foreseecreating and exploiting space to

hig target men.

First there was Mark Stein, then Paul Peschisolido, now Mike Sheron and Simon Sturridge - all players in their manager's image. Sheron came from Norwich before Christmas in exchange for a striker already loaned to a Second Division cluh. Sturridge is a refugee from Barry Fry's revolving doors at Birmingham, which also provided Stoke's creative huh, Nigel Gleghorn.

spend, the cluh are £3m in deht, playing to an average gate of 11,600 in an area ravaged by recession, and planning able future, they have little choice other than to rely on the talent currently available to

them. Premiership status would, of course, make refinancing imperative. As Pejic points out, such thoughts are premature with nearly a third of this sea-son left. Stoke face three oth-an unusually localised partier teams in the top six before the end of March, not to mention tonight's confrontation.

As a summariser with BBC Radio Stoke, he was able to hanging out. You'd never see

with Everton and Leeds, being impressed if undaunted. While Rudge's men have a Wembley date in the Anglo-Italian Cup final next Sunday. Pejic is sure the pressure and pride will concentrate their minds.

"I was involved with Vale when the derhies started again in '89. The huild-up was very exciting and the players were certainly aware of what it meant to the supporters."

sanship. "When I played for Everton against Liverpool in the semi-final, I remember cars with scarves of both teams

### Seles poised to reach the top on merit

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS

Monica Seles is expected to be co-ranked as the world No 1 with Steffi Graf on merit, rather than by dispensation, after completing the sixth tournament of her comeback in Florida later this month.

Barring elimination in the early rounds of the Lipton Championships, which commence on 21 March, it is anticipated that Seles's points verage will be higher than Graf s on the rankings computer come 1 April.

When Seles returned to the WTA Tour last August, it was decided that she would share the top ranking with Graf for her first six events, having been the No 1 when stabbed in the hack by a Graf fanatic in Hamburg in April 1993.

After six tournaments (or 12 months from the date of her return, whichever came first). Seles will be co-ranked with the diately below hers.

Seles has won three of her first five events, Toronto, Sydnev and the Australian Open. finishing runner-up to Graf at Iva Majoli of Croatia in Tokyo.

"It appears that Monica will have a higher average than Stef-fi," said Kathy Remke, the Corel WTA Tour's director of management information systems. Assuming that Monica does normaily well at the Lipton - she doesn't have to do excentionally well - she should come out coranked No 1 with Steffi."

As a special consideration, Seles's total points currently are divided by the number of tournaments she has played. Normally, total points are divided by a minimum of 14, or the total number of tournaments played, whichever is greater. Graf, having played 10 events going into the Evert Cup, which s taking place in Indian Wells. California, is still having her points divided by 14.

Seles, who withdrew from the Evert Cup in order to rest

an ailing shoulder, will continue to have the advantage of a divisor until she has participated in 14 tournaments within a 52-week period (or for a maximum of 18 months). Only

then will she be given an individual ranking. Graf, who is competing in her first tournament since undergoing foot surgety at the end of last year, will be aware that German prosecutors are close to bringing her father, Peter, to court to answer charges of evading tax on

his daughter's earnings. Proceedings are expected to take place during the summer, and therefore could coincide with the French Open, Wim-hledon or the US Open, Asked if Steffi Graf would be compelled to appear at the hearings, a spokesman for the High Court in Mannheim, said: "That is a decision for the court then. We

can't say at this time." Jennifer Capriati's ranking will be decided after the Lipton Championships, the third tournament of her second comeback disaffection, which led to drugrelated problems. The Olympic champion marks her 20th hirthday on 29 March.

Tim Henman, the 21-year-old the United States Open and to national champion from Oxford, achieved a career-high ranking of No 64 by reaching the semi-finals of last week's ATP Tour event in Rotterdam. He is now only 20 places behind his Davis Cup team-mate, Greg Rusedski.

#### TODAY'S NUMBER



The minutes it took the 35vear-old Diego Maradona to score for Boca Juniors on the first day of the Clausura football championship in Argentina. Maradona's penalty helped Boca to a 4-0 victory over Gimnasia, who finished

### 2.00 German Legend 2.35 Tresidder 3.10 Final Hope 3.40 Notable Exception 4.15 All On

E-Limited to Firm.

■ Left-hand, undulating course.

■ Course is im SW of town near junction of A889 and A177. Stockton station (2m) or Durbart station (12m). ADMISSION: Paddock SS (OAPs S4); Course S2. CAR PARE: Free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

been sent 210 miles by F Jordan from Hisbury, Hereford & Word
2.00 MONKEY PUZZLE SELLING HANDIC
1 360004 MONABU (46) (C) Mrs M Resetry 10 12 D C McCommek
2 3R10-05 FMMILIAR ART (158) G Moore 5 12 D
3 40,2460 DASHBAR (24) J Moore 9 11 4 5 thirding
4 . 35550F GERMAN LEGEND (14) D Lemb 6 11.3 A Manners
5 CO-4022 KITTOCHSIDE LAD (14) Mrs 9 Austin 6 11 1B Graffian
6 POPP 3F DON'T TELL AUDY (14) Mice M Million 8 11 0 G Cabill
? /FO-00 GLEN MORNERN (7) W Kemp 10 10 13 McDon
8 0-00050 PREN THERTY NINE (7) J Paries 10 10 12 McCarthy
9 6-4P4UF SHELTON ABBEY (115) (CO) J Wede 10 10 10 X Jos
30 10/F36-2 CRUZY HORSE DANCER (115) F Jordan 8 10 9 J Lod
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2.35 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 110yds 

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RETIRAL 8-4 June Peniste, 11-4 Political Towns, 4-1 Sure Model, 5-1 Desiddec, 12-1 Weiff's Smith, 25-1 No More the Fool

### 3.10 SEDGEFIELD HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 3m 3f

tie	, Fowling	Heos, Birtley Girl, 14-1 Ebro
[	3.40	A1 BANDAG NOVICE CHASE (CLASS £4,500 added 2m 5f
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	ky Dee, 1	-1 Well Back, 20-1 Distillery His

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#### WINDSOR

HYPERION 2.10 King Girseach 2.40 Frogmarch 3.15 Seod Rioga 3.50 Shift Again 4.25 Andre Laval 5.00

GOUNG: Good to Soft (Soft in places)

Pigure-of-cight course, Level, with sharp turns, and long straights.

Course is N of town on A306. Railway stations at Windsor Fentral (service from London, Paddingtons and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Paddingtons) and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Wastersoi) im ADMISSION: Cub 512: Testersoils 58; Silver Ring 54. CAR PARK: Club 52; remainder \$1.50 or \$1. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Harding (1.10) won at

Newbarry on Toesday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Choisty (4.251 has been sent 251 miles by Mis A Swinbank from Melsonby, North Yorkshare. 2.10 HAWTHORN HILL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f 110yds

WOODLANDS ENERGY (98) P Prochard 6 10 7. - 17 declared -BETTRICE 5-2 Programment, 9-2 Lord McMorrough, 6-1 Salis Legand, 7-1 bler, 8-1 Wyeberg, El Altrovido, 10-1 Positivo, 12-1 others

#### Even if Macari wanted to "scout" Vale in the FA Cup ties that in the Potteries." 3.15 POPESWOOD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m 1 6-553PF DONT TELL THE WIFE (12) (II) C Egerton 10 11 12.

3.50 HORTON JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m 4 RED LIGHT (11) J Jenkes 1012 JRainton 5 SHY PADDY (181) K Currengern-Brown 1012 D Weish (5) ZIDAC P Makin 1D 12 .... GRANDES OREILES N Walter 10 ? ..... APPUR PROVESS D Ments 10 7 J A McCarth 6 KATIE OLIVER (24) 6 Smart 10 7 D Gallagton D RAMSBURY RIOGE (122) L Snook 10 7 W McFarland

BETTING: 5-2 Shift Agein, 3-1 Nessum Dorn, 5-2 Katile Oliver, 6-1 Grandes Orelles, 8-1 Shy Paddy, 10-1 Fen Terrier, 12-1 Jaipur Princess, 14-1 others 4.25 VIRGINIA WATER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m

BETTING: 9-4 Leiters, 7-2 Andre Lavel, 4-1 Sea Scamp, 8-1 Ryen's Cirl. 5.00 COLNBROOK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS

9st 80. BETTING: 7-4 King Athabstan, 11-4 Glordano, 5-1 Westward Arism, 6-1

#### CARLISI F

2.10: 1. SOLOMON'S DANCER (D Gel-begrer) 3-10 fav; 2. Colorful Ambitton 7-1; 3. Whatchdyousey 14-1, 13 ran, 11/4, 3. (W Halgh), Tota: £1.40; £1.10, £1.30, £1.90. OF: £4.80, CSF: £4.18, NR: Deep Fair, 7no; £8.50.

2.40: 1. PEEP II DAY (O Pears) 1.2 fav. 2. Marrica 4-1: 3. Miss Lamplight 5-1. R ran. 44, 8. U Eyrej, Yota: £1.20: £1.60, £1.10. DF: £2.70, CSF: £2.71. NF: Dawd's 3.10: 1. READERS ROCK (Mr P Murray) 11.4: 2. Canallou R 4-6 lav; 3. Commandeer 16-1. 6 ran. 1:/4, 17. (Mr. S Smdt). Totas E3.40; £1.80, £1.30. DF: £2.00. CSF: £4.88.

3.40: 1. STAR RASE (D Galagner) 9-4 fay; 2. Scarba 14-1: 3. Brambleberry 6-1. 8 ras., 34, 13. U I. Hams). Tobe: £3.20; £1.10, £4.40, £1.60. DF: £22.60. CSF. £29.55. 7ns: £156.18. 4.10: 1. BITACRACK (L. O'Hera) 4-1; 2. Jules Box Bitly 10-11 fav; 3. Precipice Run 4-1. 4 ran. 7, 13, U Britetti. Tota: £4.10. DF: £2.80. CSF: £7.83.

4,40: 1. ELA MATA (J Railton) 9-4 fav, 2. Placepot: £23.80. Quadpot: £23.90. Place 5: £25.83. Place 5: £21.86.

PLUMPTON 2.20: 1. MEANT TO BE (E Murphy) 5-2: 2. Mouse Bird 10-11 fav: 3. Another Monk 25-1. 12: ras. 2. 3. (Lady Hemes, Lrtie-rempton). Tobe: £3.00; £1.10, £1.80, £3.00. DF: £1.70, CSF: £4.99, 7no: £13.80. NR: Saker Bird.

NF: Saker Bird.

2.50: 1.LANCE ARMSTRONG IG McCourt

4-9 fox; 2. Cholson Native 8-1; 3. Merlin's
Lad 16-1. 9 ran. 3½, 4. (6 McCourt, Warnagel, Tota £1.70; £1.40, £1.70, £2.10. DF;
£4.70. CSF: £5.00. Tric: £16.50.

3.20; 1.30VAL MAN (MA Frogersid) 11-2; 2. Touch Silver 5-1; 3. Buckland Lad 6-1.2 ran. 3-1 fav Monyrar House; 16m; 5, 7. IR O'Sullivan, Bograr Regist. Tota: £5.50; £280, £230, £2.10. DF; £10.80, CSF; £232, £6. Tincast; £161.91. Trio: £12.20. 3.50: 1 LOYAL NOTE (M Smon Andrews) 15-8: 2 Royal Irish 5-4 tpr; 3. Paco's Boy 14-1. 6 ran. 6, rk. (Mrs E Andrews, Ulley). Total: £3.10: £1.40, £1.40, DF: £2.50, CSF: £4.27. 4.20: 1 NY EDITH (Crys Wobb) 11-4 A

Toy 2. Dark Nightingsid: 12-13. Ninoter's Nations 5-1. 3 sen. 11-4 if tay Ready To Draw (pulled up). 4. 3. (f. Wils, Epsom). Note: 53-70, 51.10, 52.30, 52.20, 0.75, 528-50, CSF. 531.30, Ticast; 2144.81 Tro: £139.30. NR: bbls Core:

RACING RESULTS

the match with nine men.

4.50: 1. WHEPPERS DELIGHT (D Wesh) 8-1: 2. Nather 16-1; 3. Miss Fern 14-1. 3. ran. 5-4 fer Time Enough (pulled up), 6, 9. (G Chanes-Jones, Wantage). Total: 58.60: £2.00. £2.00. £3.00. Dr. £48.50. CSF: 598.70. Total: £135.90. Treast: £1.583.26. NP: Martin's Frend. 5.20: 1. 60M DF A GUNNER (Mr. 104-

20:1. SON II FA GENNER (MT) CA-loty) 9-1; 2. Tim 13-2; 3. Rising's Lame 33-1. 3 ran. 9-4 n fav High Leane (4th). 9, 9, () Neville, Newport). Toba: £14.40; £2.90. £1.60. £11.10. OF. £17.00. CSF: £61.85. Jeckpot: £11,074.70 (part won; pool of £1,671,78 carried forward to Cheltenham today). Placepot: £52,10. Quadpot: £25.80,

Place 6: £43.70. Place 5: £35.42. TAUNTON

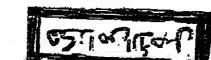
2.00: 1. IEFFERES (6 Uppn) 20-11 fev. 2. Just Mans-Mou 9: 1: 3. Honeybed Wood 33-1: 14 ran. 1:4, 5, (1 Okr. Wroughton), fote: £2.00: £1.40, £3.10, £8.10. DF: £7.80. CSF: £10.30. Tno: £225.70. 2.30: 1. UNCLE BERT (D Forts) 9-4 fav 2. Seasematramile 33-1; 3, Channel Pas-time 5-1, 8 ran, 3½, 1½, 1G McCourt, War-tage). Total: £2.80; £1.90, £5.80, £2.00 DF: £140.90, CSF: £49.34, Trocast £281.07. 3.00: 1. GAME DREMMA (R Greene) 16

12. Pharty Roef 10-13. Kin's Rose 5-1. 13 ran. 8-11 fav Hignest Roots (4th). 1½, 17. U Mulins, Andowst. Totas £18.30. £3.20, £2.30, £1.30, DF: £54.40, CSF: £155.68, Trio: £76.90. 3.30; 1. MERLENS DREAM (M Richards)

3-30: 1. MERLINS DREAM (M Rochards)
4-1; 2. Abnywed 12-1; 3. Southwapton 13-8 fav. a ran, 2\*::. 174. (0 Sherwood, Upper
Lambourn). Tote: £5.30: £1.70. £2.40,
£1.30. OF: £21.80. CSP: £42.62. Tro:
£17.80. NR: Malvemian.
4.00; 1. PRIDEWOOD PICKER (A : McCoyl 8-1; 2. Bright November 7-1; 3. Kon's
Promise 9-1; 1.4 ran, 3-1 fav Handson, 2\*/r,
3\*/s. (R Proc. Leominster). Tote: £10.90;
£2.40. £3.20. £2.10. DP: £75.10. CSP.
£53.50. Tricast: £490.35. Tro: £302.40.
4.30: 1. SPACE CAPPA INAS: V Stephens)
3-1; 2. kust My Bil 16-1; 3. My Mollow Man
7-1; 11 ran, Evens fav Grahville Guest (4th).

7-1. 11 ran, Evens fav Granville Guest (4th), 5. 3 Miss V Stephens, Taumon I, Tote: £4.90; £1.50. £2.40. £2.10. OF: £24.40. CSF. £45.25. Tho: £29.50. 5.00: 1. NORDIC MINE (G Tormey) 11-1; 2. Cornoy 8-1: 3. Christ Gles 15-1: 11 res. 5-2 fav Sports View (4th). 9, nk. (P Hobbs, Minehead). Tota: £10.10: £3.30, £2.90, £3.80. DF. £106.40. CSF: £84.17. Tricast: £1.273.54.

Placepot: £254.40. Quadpot: £43.20. Place 8: £127.95. Place 5: £85.08.



SMURETT CHAMPION HURDLE

(CLASS A) (Grade 1) £175,000

added 2m 110vds

brilliant winner, with Dance, these and Absalam's tady be-

most over this course and distance when going away units

plan thatie, when hatel Mindle and Danot were his . The soft ground was in his favour that day and the in those male will overturn the linux here.

OMMOCLEC (CF (D) 8 12.0 T P Weary
Owned D J O'Nell Reined J Folly (D)
I want at the Festival over 2m 50m at 994 but conspected
If we're after an interminated preparation. His tracker be-

product with the arms construct standard act of any arms.

en predictives not seesons ago likter his likes included the Christ-de at Kernston, However, he has suffered 3 serious righty stoce considerity authorities by Atlanticolo, Wack The Kone and Right

12 Juliant wei (27) (pt.6.12.6 La Michaert Thining: () Kinegogh) Trained & Herrion A seed medicampalger in the microstowed aces on the Hat, he to Julia a begin technic to training street wiring on the delay of Serialow. A second set, faither beford Affections (18) (posses), quited his trainer's confidence in the less discussion arms the origin frequency common

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CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL: After all the anticipation, a champion defends his crown in a fascinating centrepiece on the first day

### Speed the key for Alderbrook

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Racing Correspondent

From when the fireworks are going off until turkey is on the table and then pancakes are being scraped from the kitchen ceiling, they talk about the Cheltenham Festival. And the great thing is that no-one (pickpocket victims on-course apart) ever ends up disappointed.

Unlike so many sporting extravaganzas which seem to burn up all their energy in the hype and pre-publicity, Cheltenham has lasting and undeniable quality. It is unrivalled as an occasion, unmatchable as a magnet to top-class jumping horses. And now it is here.

If you do not feel a tingle as the initial noisy surge greets the tape going up on the first race this afternoon, there is no point ever witnessing an athletic contest of any kind again. It is always the honour of the

Champion Hurdle to provide the first-day focus at Prestbury Park and this year's running brings with it the usual skip-load of intrigue. What is different, though, is that many who think they know the game have yet to strike their most serious wager.

The reason is the weather. Yesterday was mild and clear in Gloucestershire, but it is not a pattern that is expected to last.

ercentage of

(there will be a few of those this week) for the son of weather that has families gathering their most treasured possessions and heading for high ground. This morning, at first light, there will have been a lot of curtains being drawn back in the Cheltenham area.

If, as expected, the deluge arrives. Alderbrook will become an even warmer favourite. If not, Hotel Minella will plunge. Those that fancy Danoli will not be moved even if the horse himself tells them he is feeling a bit

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Unguided Missile (Cheltenham 4.05) NB: Kimanicky (Cheltenham 2.15)

In 1ruth, this is not the strongest Champion field ever assembled. Alderbrook, who defends his crown, and Danoli were in the first four last year. but the other two in the frame. Large Action and Fortune And Fame, have been removed by in-

Alderbrook and Danoli have fairly weighty medical books themselves, the former baving had surgery to remove bone chips from his knees and the latter recovering from a leg injury

	1986	87	88	89	90	91	92	99	94	95
ourites:	1	1	3	. 7	4	1	6	.8	2	2/3
in betting:	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	2	Ω	0
	5€	11-10	7-1	50-1	95-30	41	61	13-2	91	11-2
	6	7	6	7	6	7	9	7	-8	â
o £1, stako winners pi						_		2·+11)	.87	
winner: S	es You	Then !	5-6 (1	9861						
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Hencerson laiding - Be								ier un .	985	1
Smith Eco		-				_				

which threatened not only his racing career but his life itself.

Alderbrook has been causing sleeplessness at Upper Lambourn's Old Manor stable in the late build-up. Normally it takes the fire brigade to get Kim Bailey, his trainer, out of bed, but be has been rising without any stimulus these last few mornings.
The horse is worth worrying

about. He is a glorious performer both over jumps and on the Flat, but for those who like to treat sport as a statistical puzzle, the seven-year-old bolds litappeal. Short-priced favourites at the Festival rarely get hats going into the air. They usually send bits of betting slip in the other direction. In addition, no returning Champion Hurdler bas finished better

than sixth in the last five years. Hotel Minella is trained by the wunderkind of Irish racing, Aidan O'Brien, who could take a race with the Steptoes' horse in his homeland but has yet to have a winner in Britain. Hotel Minella has undoubted ability but is said to need everything his own way. That is not the ideal recipe for the Cheltenham pot. He would cheer the Irish in victory, but not more so than

Danoli is reported to be in the form of his life and has been backed unusually (well for him anyway) by his trainer, Tom Fo-ley. The Bagenalstown man believes his borse has improved since his most recent victory (he will need to) and sends him into battle on the back of a better preparation than last year.

The persistent thought, how-ever, is that Danoli does not have the speed (which is always useful in a horse race) to match Alderbrook up the final hill. The best he can hope for is a place, where he may be accompanied by the best outsider in the field, Mack The Knife.



### Fact land him a falor. An operation on his kness (as rest to one argumentos this year, but they was a deceasing with the of today's made. With the ground easing he will be very head to be at. Looked top class behind band at Kintree last sound over heil a mile further hat was very despociating on recent suppostance at Ascottles changed subbles afroe last season and although his new tree. It is no he respected her change lacks the place in with the 001: 322 CHEF MASSIER (20) 10) 7:12 0 A Dobbie. Owned G Shiel Rained 7 Dyer the intervelopible handcap and finishing third. Would pre-Comment W.E. Share Value 1.00 TITP 3P MSSAR (87) (CTO) 5 12 0 — (Owned Theorem) Refrect M Pipe in within of kink sciency in Bunglay Bride over this course under nee, but being aroung the leaders of that poor swenter crop of it amount to much and before face or a big deeppointment this se 9 3-122 MARK THE MIRTE (TA) (D) 7.12 (L. D) Bridgements (Bridge and Carlot D) Arthur (D) 7.12 (L. D) Bridgements (Bridge and Carlot D) Arthur (D) Arthur ( of \$1,645 MISE (IZ) (IT D) \$12.0 Photos Debarry. 1 -PG233- PREPAREL (St) (C; (D) 6.12.0. (Chinest, Jones, Berstock & Fleet Trainert M Flee (Chinest, Jones, Berstock & Fleet Trainert M Flee (Res) (M Fleet) (M Fleet)

### Manhattan to start the Irish on a Festival roll

noted for their pessimism, least lean times, a rich reward is at of all during Cheltenham week, hand. but there have been times in re-

In 1987 and 1988, they returned home with just a single winner. In 1989, there was not even that small comfort, and in 1996, however, the gleam of anticipation in the eyes of the eargible belief that for those who young borses at home," Mullins

Willie Mullins, who won the perfectly. Six years ago, his brilliant bumper horse Wither Or Which might have been most of seasons since a double but success. Now, he travels with has been the average score. In a return ticket, and is one of Ireland's strongest contenders.

As a nation, the Irish are not kept the faith through the lean Greg Wood on why the challenge from across the water can relive old glories

> ago, illustrates the new situation tached to them. We're really seeing the benefits now. We could bave a bumper year."

A bet on performance during sold across the sea after his de- the Festival as a whole is always a good idea to fend of the need for a punt in every race, and with Richard Dunwoody odds-"We have to thank the Irish on to lift the Ritz Club Tropby ly arrivals is more striking than cover. There is suddenly a tannovice events which keeps the the prices on the Irish return are the ones to study.

possible the visitors could equal, or even surpass, their record to-tal of seven winners in 1977. the morning odds, preference must be for Beakstown (2.15). Coral - the only Big Three firm offering odds - go 9-1 about six

The first two events could Sweep is an unconvincing best 2.50) is the one to back, and rewarding winner.

favourite in the opener - he has particularly if the rain arrives. won well enough but what has he beaten? - while Dance Beal (Aidan O'Brien) and Beaks- and Percy Smollett (who has yet cent years when their self-belief

Supreme Novices' Hurdle with said, "and if you keep them for With serious challengers in altown (Paddy Mullius) boast to win going left-handed) in the most every event, it is not imposs to win going left-handed) in the wins in competitive handicaps. Ritz Club Chase while Stop The despite their novice status. At

Even before ber recent setback, Draborgie looked a winners, 20-1 for seven, and 33-1 for eight, and these are the three totals to be on. favourite to oppose in the Arkle Trophy, since her flat jumping style is unsuited to Cheltenham. At least four of the Irish run-

Maamm (4.05) is a value alternative to Unguided Missile Waller (4.40), runner-up to Draborgie at Warwick earlier this year, has as good a chance as any in the Fulke Walwyn/Kim Muir Chase for amateurs.

The best could be saved until last on the opening day. Twenty-four will go to post for the Gold Card Hurdle, but well go across the water, just as ners could exploit any errors. THE LAST FLING (nap 5.15) they did 12 months ago. Castle but Manhattan Castle (next should be both an appropriate

15 6-35FG2 ABBALONES LARW (27) (20) (21) 9 1 19 (Owned: Wildownso Mercy Records Release D. Bascotti (Facil Januaria and Mercy Department of manage the Coustract Handle at Kempton less season business interests on the facility in representations of the facility of the fa

16.55-1291 SINVSINY (188 (CD)-6-13-9) Options
(Toward Site Robin) Cally Trained C Egeron
The womer of the Trumph finds here the sessor's ago and thin in
this lace last year this knowledge for the first here is seen in the improved
again this sesson. Three course was prove her living for the track and
as a mare, she receives a useful Sib allowance.

BETTARS: 11:10' Atterbrook, 5:1 Hotel Minelle; Myclix, 11:2 Daniel, 10:1 Coller Bay, 20:1 Squire 5ilk, 25:1 Land Afer, Mack The Knife, Right Win, 40:1 Pridwell, 50:1 Kissoir, 66:1 Absalon's Lady, Statuch Friend, 100:1 Boro Eight, Chief Minister, Muse 1994: Alderbrook 6 12 0 N Williamson 11-2 (K Bailer) 14 rad

2.15: Kimanicky is a strong up from a powerful yard and would be for-

a powerful yard and would be for-midable on good ground. If the threatened downpours arrive, though, soft ground could hand the advantage to the unbeaten Castle Sweep. Both are at short odds in a competitive contest, however, and a more attractive belting proposi-tion is the 20-1 Ladbrokes offer for David Nicholson's "second string" SHANKAR, who has shown good form on this track. 

2.50: These big fences will present a stem test for Draborgie's fast-and-furious style of racing. Better val-ue is available with VENTANA CANYON, from a stable with an ex-

 $\Omega$ 3.36: ALDERBROOK, who looked the best Champion Hurdler since 1985-87 triple winner See You Then when beating Large Action
by five lengths with Danoli third,
Mysilv fitth and Absalon's Lady
sixth last year, showed his well-being by easily brushing aside Mack
The Knife, Land After and Right Win at Kempton last month, Much has been made of the smart Flat



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"good" going over jumps would be deemed "good to soft" or even "soft" on the Flat. It is debatable if today's ground will be any firmer than it was when the selection finished a superb three-quarters of a length second to Freedom Cry (who received 2lb) in the Group 2 Grosser Preis Der Wirtschaft over 11 furlangs on soft going at Baden-Baden last May. Collier Bay does need deep mmd and Hotel Minella may prove a bigger danger. 000

4.05: UNGUIDED MISSILE, who beat Strong Deel a length and a quarter over an inadequate two and a half miles and 110 yards at Wetherby, is proven here and, thanks to Flashing Steel, meets the six at the bottom of the handicap on favourable terms. Mud-loving Percy Smollett is the main danger





CHELTENHAM 2.15 Shankar 4.05 Unguided Missile (nb) 2.50 Ventana Canyon 4.40 Stop The Waller 3.30 Alderbrook

22 Left-hand, calloping nourse with said fences. Uphill run-in of 2 thyd.
22 Course is one rule north of town of A+C. Bus link from Challenham station (see ed by Brestof, Bernansham and London, Parlianguon) for males away. ADMISSION: Club 1-61, Tattervalls S20, Fester's Enclosure S10, CAR PARK: S5.

SIS ELEADING FESTIVAL TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson - 8 winners from 51 runners news a success rate of 15 7% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$2.08; N Benderson - 5 winners, 11 runners, 12.2%, -5.5/32; M Pipe - 5 winners, 124 runous (1.2%, -5.5/32; M Pipe - 5 winners, 124 runous (1.2%, -5.5/32; M Pipe - 5 winners, 125 runous (1.2%, -5.5/32; M Pipe

O.C. 13 Do. 434 25 N Twiston-Davies — 3 wanners, 19 ranners, 10 17%, +535, 15. ELEADING FESTIVAL JOCKETS: C Swam — 8 wanners, 17 rides, 17.0%, +530.00; J Osborne — 8 wanners, 55 rides, 11.0%, +40.75; A Maguire — 5 wanners, 43 rides, 11.0%, +41.50. N WIIIIameson — 1 wanners, 19 rades, 21.1%, +26.25. WIVNERS IN THE LAST SVEN DAYS None.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS (WITTIN BRITAIN): Chief Minister (3.00) has been sent 137 rades by Thomas Byer from Invergowre, Tayside: Attachde (5.15) sent 265 miles by L Deconfront arratherstoon. Dandress, Great Easeby (5.16) sent 242 miles by Wistorry from Shagh-sants. On Darham, Unchief Missile (4.05) sent, 240 miles by G Richards from Greynoke. Unobers.

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7	140	CITEGEN SUPPOSAS NOVOS NUEDO E (OL AGO A)	
1	2.15	CITROEN SUPREME NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £45,000 2m 11,0yds Pen Vai £45,247	C4
	** ***	(45 doc 1) 245,000 2/11 110/05 Pell Val 145,241	
1 5	1.04204	ASHWELL BOY (31) (D) (BF) A B S Racing P Hoobs 5 11 8.	G McCour
Partie Pa	20,000	BEAKSTOWN (30) (D) (Mrs P) (Alicara) PALIERS (III) 7 11 8	TP Treac
13	10-111	BRAVE PATRIARCH (13) IPS S Windslow N Herderson 5 11 8	B P <del>ost</del> i
3	10.221	CALL EQUANAME (18) (D) for Crount, P.K. Barber, C. Lewis) P. Nicholis 6 11 8	_AP McCo
5	002 12	CASTLE SWEEP (53) (O) (Long Vertey) () Nicrobon 5 11 8	P Nive
7	007-23	GAROLD (Fit) (17) (D) LDC, Unic Webberl C Brooks 6 11 8	G Brackey
ò	214	GREEN CRUSADER (15) : Mr. : ( Ward) Mrs V Ward 5 11 8	Richard Gres
l å	0201.31	NOPFENCE (13) (D) they (united Vis.) Partier 5 11 8	W Marsky
20	211201	KIMANICKY (17) (D) Alirs Barrel Barrels N Henderson 6 11 8	M A Pitzgerak
ū	5.11.20	LE KHOUMF (FR) 127) (D) Dead S Lewis J M Badley 5 11 8.  MASTER BEVELED (17) (D) Mrs E J Vallams P Evens 6 11 8.	R Ferrare
I,	50.712	EMPOSITION (ICA) (CD) (MD) II - 1 VARIANCE P EMPIS 5 11 8.	Usbomi
13	1/	REPOSIVANI (USA) (27) (BF) (LC) - Naughton R Actual 6 11 8	5 Ryar
12	640031	MR BUREAUCRAY (NZ) (1003) (D) (BF) (Stanles; W Clate) M Pipe 7 11 8	D Bridgenia
i		MULLIGAN (24) (D) The Aboress Raong Club; M Morris (kil 6 11 8	C U Dwye
15	2.17375	PAST MASTER (USA) (13) PAST J to Ryani C Broad S 11 8	Sperida
17		PORPHYROS (18) (8F) "an Julianed" N Baley 5 11 8	S MeHail
13	11.570-	POTENTATE (USA) (201) (D) 'Lm Vicederil M Ppg 5 11 8.	love
10	2472-3	ROBERT'S 707 (53) (D) (C) & D Stock M Page 5 11 8	amie Evans
20	C : 112	RUBHANIARISH (31) (D) June Stat Racing Partnership) J Bernett 5 11 8	
	(4-213-A	RYE FONTAINE (52) (DI IPicey N'eGahes) A O'Baon (M) 7 11 8	
7		SAFEGLIDE (SC) P H Both (Holome) Lim 1 Giffed 6 118	P 1964
22	22-1221	SHANKAR (12) (D) Anternational Physicad Ptd D Nicholson 5 11 8	R Johnson
23	121434	SPEEDWELL PRINCE (17) (D) (By Follows P step) N Traston-Daves 6 11 8.	C Lieucilys
24	P-05230	WINDLE WOMDER (7) :P   D Proposer) M Bradstock 6 11 8	P Hotel
25	311511	DANCE BEAT (59) (D) (Alt) E Queaty) Mrs J Hamington (MY 5 11 3	R Durmoody
26	14, 231	STLVER SHIRED (56) (D) (I) M Zerestord M Pros 5 11 3	@ Bussons
27	6223	SOLATRIM (17) (EF) 'Frank' - Fartanti M Pipe 4 11 ()	C Maude
28	6	STREAKY HAWK (USA) (6) P CLEARNET-BILL J PEACE 4 11 0	J McLauthin
		- 28 declared -	
BEY	TVNG: 7-2	Castle Sweep, 9-2 Kimanicky, 5-1 Dence Best, 9-1 Call Equinance, 14	1 Beak Stown

BETTVIC: 7-2 Castle Sweep, 9-2 Kirnanicky, 5-1 Brance Bent, 9-1 Call Empirature, 14-1 Beekstown, Garolo, 16-1 Rubhahusiah, Shaskar, 20-1 Master Bereiet, Niroswald, 25-1 others 1995; Tourst Atoricon 5-11-3 M Owner 25-1 W Mullins, Int 20 ran FORM GUIDE.

The linsh have a memendous record in this, winning it from 1977 to 1983, In 1991, 1993 and eigen last year with Tourist Altraction. They are represented by Dance Bent, Besistatown, Mulligan and Rive Fordaine and the pack of their might be the first intered, a remarkably consistent mare, who was winning for the fourth time from her last five stars when getting nome by a tength in the Labriche at Leopardstown and is to be indicen by Richard Durwoody. However, they undeficated CASTLE SWEEP can keep the price of home. Dank Nicholson's 1994 year old won his single bumper start last season, at Limanic, a simple report at New Your Abbot on his return and has landed rivee hundle races the term at Bangor, Nortingham and her home the result of the first and their conservation, where he inotted up by 15 lengths. The son of Castle Keep is oben to further ansolvement. Kimanicky, representing Festival specialist Nicky Henderson, is anomer who book centain to go well. He showed he was very much on the upgrade last time when beating Muster Beveled four lengths at Kempton Isoth, where Garolio and Speedwell Prince wire third and fourth. Kimanicky is thought kiedy to be even more effective on better ground. He should inverse earlier numming with Castle Sweep's stablemate Shankor, who finished a Prunce of lengths in first of thir when they were second and third to Zephynia here in Decimber. Call Equiname is a lazy type who sometimes just does enough and who has pro-

ton and should have the race run to such hum with a crecking pace assured. Luke Harvey fan-cies his chances on Rubhabamish, a former amart Flax performer who beat Solarium (2h worse off) a couple of lengths, on his hunding bow at Newbury, where Ashwell Boy was an odds-on flop in seventh. Potentiate earne home by 15 lengths at Chopstow in Documber on his single start so far.

TA SEA CHENNESS ADVI E TOPODLY CHASE IN ASS AT

2	250	(Grade 1) £75,000 2m Penalty Value £52,240	C4
1	31/2-311	ARCTIC KENSHAN (24) (D) MAS R E Harristo N LASSIN-Deces 8 11 8	_C Lloretyn
2	541F-11	ASK TOM (86) (D) (8 T-Stewart-Brown) TTER 7 11 8	P News
3		CABLE BEACH (23) (D) (Het M Spring M Currengton it i 7 11 8	
4	U1212F	CAPTAIN INCEDIVE (86) (CD) Officeive Partiership: P Notices 8 11 8	_A P McCoy
S		CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (12) (D) (CARCINE) WESTER LOT TEXTON T 11 8	
6		DICHCARLOCH (17) (D) (F) Cares: J King 7 11 8	
7		KONG WALH GLORY (23) (D) U P McManusi P Butte (Sr. i 11 8	
8		MANHATTAN CASTLE (61) (D) (P REPORTED) A LODGE (M) 7 11 8	
9		NO PAIN NO GAIN (38) The Marvetus Patrests! J Grant & 118	
10	F41R22	PROJECTEY PLACE (27) (A.I Cresser N. Twester-Daves 8 11 8	T Jerks
11		SEEK THE FAITH (USA) (24) (O) (BF) IR H F MUTTERS' M SPECIAL 7 11 8	
12		SUPER CORI (27) (8F) (George Brodes) R Lee 8 11 8	
13		TRYPIC AGAIN CED (D) (N) H DOTO) D GATOTO 3 11 8	
14	3-113-2	VENTANA CANTON (23) (D) Philip F Myercough E O'Cress (40 7 11 8	R Dissector
15		DOUBLE STAPHORY (51) OF Use Smoother - Ochen Rt 8 11 3	
16		DRASORGIE (FR) (17) (Dorren C Mercer) M Poe 5 10 9	

1998: Reing Dave 6 11 8 F Woods 7-2 IA Moore, by 112an POPPING GUIDE Draborgie. Brought likely to miss this after pulling out a hitle bit soff when working on Finday, now takes her chance. She is unbeater following two runs from Martin Popt's yard, winning a monot handrical by 25 lengths at Warneth in Jamuary and putting a distance between herself and the only other finisher, techestilloch, at Kempton, She rocewes 13th from all bar one of her 15 malb and is not the salect of jumpers. TRYTHING ASSAM gets the vote. A smart hunder last term, this egith-year-old, odds on when making his tending debut at Chapstow in November, could do no better than fourth behind Seak The Patht and went under tive lengths to Nemuro when market leader at Exter the following fromth. Shit, Tomg Agent is learning with experience and comes here on a hard-ond hollowing Kempion and Towcester mumphs, defeating inchcalkort 15 lengths at the Scribbury track. The selection can amound the Chepsow from with Sesh. The Faith, Manhatithan Castle looks the pook of the lists quarter. He beat Double Symphony seven lengths at Leopardstown last one with Ring Wash. Glory a remote fifth and Ventains Castyon, who was going well at the time, a takes two fences out. Anothe Kinsman, Sol.1 samper of the Suprame Novoes' hunde two years ago, is unbeaten after a couple of chases, at Leopards and Warnerk, and could make his presency left, white Ask Tom. a labiler of his forcing debut legt season, has som both his races the left, white Ask Tom. a labiler of his forcing debut legt season, has som both his races the left, white Ask Tom. a labiler of his forcing debut legt season, has som both his races the left, white Ask Tom. a labiler of his forcing debut legt season, has som both his races the left, white Ask Tom. a labiler of his forcing debut legt season, has som both his races the left workers he had cumbring the left with the labiler of his forcing debut has season, has some forces and a quarter. Cumbran Challerge lanced a handwar handwar had some the latest t

4	1.05	RITZ CLUB NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £40,000 3m 1f Pen Value £33,712	C4
1	31F1-16	FUSING STEEL (30) (CD) IC J Harden J Marcon (M) 11 12 0	Osboms
2		UNGROED MISSIE (38) (CD) (D E Pareon) G Remots 8 10 16	
3		PERCY SMOULET (17) (SP) IR G March ( C Net cross 8 10 10	
A	0-25U1L	MATRIAN EXPRESS (17) IANCES SUPES LET VIERGE CON 9 10 9	MA Plustraid
ŝ	670-30P	CHATAM (USA) (31) (C) (Adran F Notari N Pos 12 10 2	_ D Bridgy star
6	1F-3264	FLYER'S NAP (31) (CD) R ! Toys R AS = 10 10 0	Hr P Hentey (S)
7		GENERAL RUSTY (150) (Martinel H Wast, C Martin 8 10 0	
8-		MANNUR RISAS (12) (13) (45) 41 Wood 1 Force 8 16 0 Ge.	
ğ		MMES PIGG (136) (CO) (BF) (SSECO) PRITEST : 17 P.	
10		YORKSHERE GALE (25) (CD) (SO NING! ) GADE 10 10 0	
		DELYGOAT GRUFF (28) (D) Pare O Cocces O National 7 10 0	
		KOLFFENY CROSS (18) A J Protecton; J Featte 5 10 0	
		- 12 declared -	-

Smokett this not act on the fact ground when beaten four lengths by Ambraic Express at Sundown on his preceding start and should turn around the form. Selections MAAMUR. 4.40 FULKE WALWYN/KIM MUIR HANDICAP CHASE (AMATEUR RIDERS) (CLASS 8) £25,000 3m 1f Penalty Value £22,435

RIDERS) (CLASS 8) £25,000 3m	1f Penalty Value £22,435
1 411-211 BENERAL WOLFE (18) The Winney Line T Roster	
2 40-4022 ENCORE UN PEU PRO (18) (Vincere Maily) M Pipe S	11 10 Mr J Derspecy
3 12/3214 STRONG MEDICINE BITH KO BET IDED 8 A SEG X	Besiev 9 11 9 Nor M Assertance
4 313722 STEEL MERROR (16) (Quaryand Syndromy A O'Bre	
5 42F11 SUNLEY BAY (31) (0) (Mrs Madarine G Barbert P N	chols 10 11 6 Miss P Coding (S)
6 10FP3U ALL FOR LUCK (31) B J Case M Pee 11 11 6	Jir P Fertion
7 120115 CEL DE BRION FRE (10) OH de Pracumtat F Dourn	
8 COS-351 TEPPING THE (B) (CD) ON'S I MOUND IN TWESTON DOWN	5 11 11 5
9 100-112 TURRENG TREX (32) (BP) (Mel Daves) O Nicholson 9	11.5Wr Authory Martin
10 2112-46 SPUFFINGTON (18) Ludan Coped J Groot 8 11 5 11 2-31334 RUR UP THE PLAG (25) (0) (8F) (Pel-mel Patress)	Mr P O'Keetile (7)
11 331334 RAW UP THE PLACE (25) (U) (SE) (Pel-mel Patress)	) Grand 9 11 3 Mr C Boxmer (3)
12 6-F2211 PURTIAN (CARG (12) () Parks) N Tinker 7 10 10	Mss P Joses (5)
13 PP-IT1P MATT RESD (GER CO) (W.G.N. Morgan) / Leigh 12 10	10
14 LIPTET EASEN JOHER (12) (D) (GR Ownerd) S Kettlewell 8	10 9 Mex)
15 972523 GIVAS A BUCK (30) (GD) (K Costello) D Dawgrin 13	10 6 TheCarty (5)
16 54 6111 MANEREE (45) (14 Tabor) N CANGE ST 9 10 4	Sir P Healey (5)
17 F22212 STOP THE WALLER (11) IR Burgard F Morphy 7 10	2Afr K Wheles (5)
18 122 VALCE TOPP MARTINER (LD) (D) PAIS Jean R Bishop) S Sher	wood 11 10 1
19 3-PO25 VISACA (127 (II) IL Helymusi N Tustor Daves 10	10 ()
27 LPG 38-4 THE REAL LANGUE (18) Guy Lucko R Roses 11 10 (	
21 140041 GLEN MINNEE (25) U Coombit V Coombe 11 10 0	Miss M Coosbe (2)
22 2354-PO LEMERALL PROCESS (14) UL Needward J Needland - 22 declared -	
Minimum meight 10st. The handcap weight: Ksaga 9si 9th, The	Real Linguise Sat 4th, Glen Minage Ser
Cit. Leithad Princess St.	the second second second
RETTREE 5-1 Turning Trix, 11-2 General Wolfe, 8-1 Manages,	10-1 Eastly Joker, Sonicy Bay, 12-1
Encore Ur Pee, Strong Medicine, 14-1 Peritors, Ran Up The Fit	Steel Hirror, 26-2 others
1995: Ryer's Nap 9 9 10 Mr P Henley 11 1 (R Alment 16 ram FORM 61 HOE	
GENERAL WOLFE is on joint top weight but, with the good	emateur Jim Cultoty distrang the
Sits, can show the way home here. Tim Forster's seven-year	r. risk whener of his last our reces
in 1994-95, ran Greening Tare Away to half a length at	
since landed the odds at Carliele and at Hardock. Encor	
was the eight-length runner-up at Haydook and his 7th ad	
him to reverse the running. General Wolfe may have mor	
landed his first two races this term and was 15 lengths de	
lengths by Terao at Newbury last time. Although 7th worse	er, Turning Trox can confirm Lud-
low form with the five length runner-up, Visings.	Selection: GENERAL WOLFE.

1	5.15	HAMLET CIGARS GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURI (CLASS B) £30,000 added 3m 2f Pensity Value	DLE (FINAL). le £27195
1		SEE ENOUGH (III) (EIR) U A C Meeden) R Buster 8 12 0	
ž	211042	FINE RIM (15) OLS O'CONNOT D'AUTES SE 9 11 11	E House
3	131119	PRABANEAR (SEL (SF) Sharriers Treaded Personers) D Nacrolson 8 11 6	R Johnson (S)
ĭ	5660-00	ATDADALE (17) The Low Piers (Thoroughorats: Ltd) L bingo 8 11 4	Tiber
5	0-53603	BROCKE LAD (17) (Mrs H F Prencerpost) F Marphy 7 11 4	MA Franchi
ě	P.25002	CALLAN COVE (27) Forum Racing RANse 7 11 4	Mr D Haring (S)
7	373 IM	PLEASURE SHARED CAR Flora Faces P H-bbs R 110	E Market
8	06-2422	FLIZZY LDGAC (240 (CD) (Chehecoam Racing Ltd) N Tersion-Danes 8 11 0	Ctimining
9	0.72	RESEMBOOD MASPRET (\$27) 67 G Reader.) A J Wilson 9 10 13	l Karner
10	11-04	KANSPAZE (20) OGGOT S GERTSDUT): J Village 6 10 12	J.F. Titley
11	0012-00	PRACADA (27) (C) MAS Margaret McChone) R Rose 13 10 11	DO'Selfera
12	32-5211	GREAT EASIER (SS) (D C Batter W Stony & 10.8	R McCretts (71
13	270-602	DO BE HAVE (25) GST (Pienes and Lat) Lite J Pienes 8 to 8	W Sheeten
14	111711	BANKAY PETE ASSAUCE PRISE Acrossed M Pee 6 10 6	D Britanese
15	21 (1)	MICHAEL TO RISK N.T. U.P. Meldonard F. O'Conturber R. 10 K.	T Parameter
72	51	AND CHOND CORD OF COMEN A LURGARY BIOLOT 10 F	~ 8
IN	117715	THE LAST PLING CAN PAIGHTS INCOME RECOGNICAL Mrs. S. Sunty E. 40.2	Charles Council
13	- 31415I	EVEX SMALE (FTO COS) (David L'Estrator) M Pap 9 91) 2	
-70		TANKE (225 NO 1-25 NT 17A 16 10 Z	· 1 0-4
-1	0.30712	ONSPONDE LESS IN CHEMICAL PROCESS S 10 3	A Distar
-2	76-761	VICTOR BROAD INC. (11) NO PROSE F Rabbook N Common O (n 2	A Wanter
23	12200	SHERRY (59) Drospher P J Brown J HAS 5 10 1 OTTORS (24) Paul K Barber P Norolls 6 10 0	T leaks
34	522343	OTTOKA (24) Poul K Saber P Norths 6 10 G.	C March
		- 24 declared -	
i.tr	com wid	th 10st. The Nandcap neight Orman Day 179	

htranus resign: 10th. The hard-up enign: Colono Str 12th.

BETTIFIC 74: Top Cets, 8-1 The Last Fing. 9-1 Great Esseby, Pleasure Stands, No When Yo Run.

10-1 Attacks, Lessdown, 14-1 Mondoon, Pleasures, 16-1 Eros State, Russaday Petz, 20-1 pitters

1995: Manufe Man 7-10 11 Pare Hobbs 9-2 IC Vication) 23 Jan.

1995: Mease Man 7 ID 11 year rooms 9-71; Weedon) IS an FORM GUIDE.

FORM GUIDE

TOP CEES, five-women of the 1995 Chestor Cup and turbody in nursing when a task-fessing length that of 22 in the Cesaramon, we retain the marathon purpose and, feely weighted, can taken up that month's stant-head Wetherby win off they 3 lib higher made. One of the beginst dangers is the linch challenger he When To Russ, yet to win this term but best en only a neek by foundation of Ness, on his most recent start and the mount of Richard Durnhoods, Pressure Sharmed Gelected Pazzy Logic five lengths at Cheption stat time held Ottawa a fength and a quarter back in that and See Enough pulse up, he can confirm the form atthough leased 7 to by the.

Selection TOP CEES.

In contrast to the bombardment of predictable hyperbole it has off in the most widely read British newspapers, and of course on Sky television, Frank Bruno's defence of the World Boxing Council heavyweight championship against Mike Tyson in Las Vegas next Saturday has yet to cause any excitement on this side of the Atlantic. Doubtless interest will have picked up by the time Bruno's 3 000 or so supporters begin to arrive in the Nevada desert, but

an event Sky would have its cus-

tomers believe to be the "Fight

sporting priorities that it did not rate even one paragraph in the publications I scanned before

leaving New York.

This has less to do with the notion that British heavyweights are naturally inclined to the horizontal position than things taking place in their time, and the conclusion, admirable to my mind, that prizefighters are fired by personal ambition, not

You may sense the voice of a cynic, but it is a fact that Tyson would raise a great deal of embarrassment over here if, like Bruno, he prattled on about representing his country. The singing of the US anthem at sports events is no guide to naof the Century" is presently so tional sensibilities. The tradition

goes back only until shortly af-ter the outbreak of war in 1941 when, in deciding that sport was important to morale, President Roosevelt ordered a reminder of more important issues.

There has been plenty of evidence down the years to show that British sports fans generally see things in a different light. Those who turned up to support Bruno seven years ago when he challenged unsuccessfully for the championship Tyson then held caused considerable amusement. "Who are these people?" I recall an American friend asking when they stormed the weigh-in, chanting Bruno's name. "Do they always behave

so childishly. Doubtless Las Vegas is in for a repeat performance, but what readers are being encouraged to fire off encouraging faxes to the WBC champion? It reminds me of a story told

about the build-up to a contest between an outstanding British boxer, Dave Charnley, and Joe Brawn of the US for the latter's undisputed lightweight championship. Sluggish ticket sales prompted the promoter, an imaginative type, to come up with a suggestion he put to the British boxing writers in attendance. "What about getting the Queen to send Dave a good luck message?" he asked. While boxing fans are known

to have divergent notions of pleasure, what they expect in the main from heavyweights is vio-

tions matter less than the abil-ity to induce a state of mind known commonly as unconsciousness. It is why the first fight of Mike Tyson's comeback sold out at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas and why the arena will be full again on Saturday.

Even as champion, Bruno is porting actor. What will even tually capture the attention of Americans is Tyson's hugely rewarded attempt to again unify No amount of support for Bruno can undermine their helief that he is in Las Vegas merely to provide Tyson with an opportunity to re-establish the reputation that once spread terror throughlence. When hig men get into out the heavyweight division.

ed. a confident personal as-sumption was that the fight would by now have gained some momentum, at least in the Las Vegas newspapers. Not a word, no sighting so far of the American boxing correspondents who have been made temporarily redundant by attention given to the basketball championships.

A curious fact is that while USA Today made no reference to the fight, it carried a story about the first game in qualifi-cation for the 1998 World Cup, a 3-3 draw betwen Dominica and Antigua. You may find this odd.
I find it healthy. All things in their time is no bad philosophy. William Hill have taken a bet of £50,000 from one customer at 1-4 on Tyson to win.

# caught it...

During the slowing-down lap of Sunday's race in Melbourne. I was reminded of what an absolutely fantastic feeling it is to win a grand prix. Quite apart from everything else which happens during a race weekend, winning is an incredibly rewarding sensation, especially if you've put in a lot of effort during the winter, trained hard and dealt with all the pre-season hype as people speculate about this, that and the other. All you want to do is get on with the

racing.
But then after racing for an hour and 33 minutes – focusing non-stop on the car in front, the backmarkers and everything else which is going on - the re-lease when it's all over is absolutely enormous. That was the overriding feeling as I made my way back to the pits.

What made the result even more satisfying was the fact that Rothmans Williams-Renault had worked exceptionally well as a team throughout the entire weekend. It had been a tremendously slick operation and we were very effective during the race. Any of the criticism which had been levelled last year could not, under any circumstances, have been raised last weekend.

The atmosphere has been excellent and Jacques Villeneuve played his part in that. One way or another, it's been quite an experience having Jacques as a team-mate. He's a very keen competitor with a good personality. And he's quick - as his first pole position showed. I knew I was going to have my work cut out right from the start of the race.

Jacques maintained his lead into the first corner and, coming out, I gave the car some throttle and it suddenly snapped sideways. I thought: "Here I go..." but I caught it, only to find I was on the dusty part of the track and unable to accelerate as hard as I wanted. Both Ferraris went through, but mercifully, the race was stopped after an accident at the third corner.

I made a better start second ime round and settled in behind Jacques, working out where he was quick and where I was able to close up. I was able to get close to him, but I didn't want to take any chances in the early part of the race.

I knew I was going to go for a later pit stop than Jacques and that would give me the opportunity to run quickly for a lew laps with a very light load of fuel. That, in turn, would allow me to close down the time difference between us and come out of the pits ahead of him. That's in fact what happened - hut it wasn't a big enough gap.
The plan had been spoiled

by finding three backmarkers in my path during those few laps after Jacques had disappeared into the pits. We changed tactics slightly and I came in a lap early because I was being delayed too much. I nipped out of the pits just

as Jacques was finishing a lap with his tyres nicely warmed up. defended the line, but I was on relatively cold tyres and ran wide at the exit of a corner. Jacques slipped through. We were back to square one. I thought I would put a bit



of pressure on him and, sure enough, he made a mistake and went on to the grass at the exit of the first corner. I was unable to keep my foot on it, however, because Jacques was heading back to the track and I was mindful of the fact that there might have been a few long faces in the Williams pit if both of us had ended up in the wall.

I had a couple of goes at get-ting through, both then and later on in the race when we came across some backmarkers. Jacques defended quite vigorously, but there was no contact between us, absolutely nothing I could complain about. It was a good, sporting fight.
Throughout all of this,

had been getting oil on my visor and it had been getting worse and worse. When I had used all the rip-offs, which are attached to the outside of the visor. I resorted to cleaning with the back of my gloves, but at best it merely smeared the oil. At one stage, the oil actually began to run down the inside of my visor, so obviously there was no way I could get rid of that. To say the world looked very murky from where I was sitting would be a considerable understatement.

When I noticed that the oil from the back of Jacques' car was coming out much worse than before, I got on the radio and told the team that Jacques had a problem. I didn't want to drop back because that would have reduced the pressure on Jacques, but as things turned out he had to slow quite dramatically in the final few laps to make sure of finishing. I'm sure Jacques is disappointed not to have won. He put up a very good show and there's no question he's going to win

races this season. All in all, we had a good race: an exciting start to the year. It was the result I had hoped for. but we clearly have to Work hard because the competition is potentially very strong. The Ferraris, for instance, are not far away. Even though they were stopping twice - as opposed to our single stop - and were therefore running with a lighter load of fuel in the early stage, we would probably have only been about 15 to 20 seconds ahead of Michael Schumacher had he been able to keep running to the end. It's going to take Ferrari no time at all to close that gap.

But in the meantime. I have 10 points in the bank. As I was slowing down and heading for the pits, I thought: "Well, now I'm leading the world champi-onship." The last time I led the championship was after the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola last May. The privilege was to last for a mere two weeks. On this occasion, we've only just started the season and I have to say I'm really looking forward to keeping up the momentum at the next race in Brazil.

### **Four-year wait** for Australian Super League

Ce of fame DAVE HADFIELD

The worst fears of Rupert Murdoch's News Limited have been confirmed by a judge's ruling that Super League in Australia cannot start before the year 2000.

There is no legal barrier to the parallel Super League in Europe starting on schedule on 29 March, although there must be 150 of flame doubts now over whether Mur-- doch will pump money into the game here for four seasons while waiting to start up in Australia.

"As far as I am concerned we have won," said Ken Arthurson, the chairman of the Australian Rugby League, which has successfully fought off the attempt to set up a rebel competition. News Limited is to appeal and the company is applying for

a stay of the orders against it today, but its most gloomy prog-noses have come true with the series of judgments handed flown by Judge James Burchett in Sydney yesterday.

It has been ordered to send "Clearly Super League in the players it signed back to Australia has had the set-back their ARL clubs, although News Limited will have to continue to . ind to destinenour contract payments to

those players. The eight clubs which tried To break away to join Super. - cague have been told they nust "assemble, train and conistently field the best possible eams...in the national [ARL] ompetition until 31 December. - 999." In all probability, that narks the end of the Super eague dream in Australia.

Alex "Harricane" Higgins, the

former world snooker champi-

on was declared to be too ex-

hausted and unfit to play on the

opening day of the World

His fellow Irishman John

Matchplay Championship in

McIntyre received a walkover

into round two after Higgins'

manager, Doug Perry, faxed

Ballymena yesterday.

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The implications for the rest of the world are partly contained m an order that says: "Super League players are banned from taking part in or promoting any games conducted by the Rugby
Football League in England or
including any of its clubs."
That not only appears to
prevent News Limited hiving off

any Australian Super League players to its British competition, it also kills off any prospect of a Super League World Club

Those are the circumstances under which, according to an affidavit from the RFL tabled in Sydney. News Limited would have grounds for pulling out of its European contract. Despite that, the League here was still claiming yesterday that it had narrowly escaped something

Our lawyers advised us that we came perilously close to the dangerous situation of having European Super League stopped," the RFL's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, said.

of not being able to commence, but an appeal is to be heard quickly and we will be monitoring events. For the moment, we will devote all our attention to ensuring that the European Super League is a success."

News Limited's chief executive, Ken Cowley, said that Judge Burchett's ruling was fundamentally unsound and that a successful appeal could still allow Super League to start this year.

### Brilliant Lara is the difference

Cricket

West Indies 264-8 South Africa 245 (West Indies win by 19 runs)

A superb century by Brian Lara gave the revitalised West Indies a chance of victory which the part-time spin of Jimmy Adams eventually secured in the third World Cup quarter-final at the National Stadium in Karachi vesterday.

the organisers to say his player A semi-final against Auswas "unfit to take part" because he was suffering from "complete tralia had looked far from probable just 12 days earlier, when exhaustion". Mike Russell, the winner of the West Indies slumped to defeat against Kenya, prompting their captain, Richie Richthe UK title at Wigan last week, opened his defence of the title with a comfortable 4-0 victory ardson, to announce his over Russia's only professional retirement from international Ashot Potikyan. cricket.

Badminton

Lara struck 111 off 94 balls. The world No 3, Peter Gilchrist, also reached the last putting on 138 with Shivnarine Chanderpaul for the second 16 with a 4-1 victory over Nalin wicket against a South African

attack lacking Allan Donald. who was not selected.

Sweeping to victory: Brian Lara on his way to 111 in Karachi yesterday

Both captains paid tribute to well today after all the pressure he's been under and I felt very tense for him," Richardson said, "But when he hit his first four, I knew he was definitely going to score his 100."

had made the difference: "We Lara. "He badly wanted to do gave him too much width with

our howling," he added. Lara's innings looked as though it might count for nothing, first because of some careless Caribbean hatting later in the muings, and then when the

Karachi scoreboard

(West Indies wor loss) S Chanderpaul e Cultiman p McMillao ...56 J C Adems not out
1 A Behop 6 Adems
C E L Ambrose not out
Extres (62, 611, w2, no1)

btal flor 8, 50 overs). Per 1-42, 2-180, 3-210, 4-214, 5-227, 6-230, 7-230, 8-254. © 230, 7-230, 8-254. Did not bet: C A Wesh. Bowling: Polices 9-0-48-0; Marthess 10-0-42-1: Crarje 3-0-17-0; McAffan 10-1-37-2; Symoto: 10-0-64-2; Adents 8-0-45-2.

A C Hudson e Walsh b Adems ...

G Kraten Int wicket b Ambrose ...

D J Catinan e Bishop b Adems ...

"W J Cronje e Arthurton b Adems J N Rinodes e Adems b Harper ...

S M Policok e Adems b Harper ... 

Extres (b1, b4, w2, rb4) 11
Total (49.3 twers) 245
Fult 1-21, 2-118, 3-140, 4-186, 5-196, 6-196, 7-198, 6-227, 9-228 Bowting: Ambrose 10-0-29-1; Walsh 8.3-0-51-1; Bishop 5-0-31-0; Harper 10-0-47-4; Adams 10-0-53-3; Anhunton

WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONEMIPS (Ballymonn) First round a Sawe (Ind) at P Dornelly IN 1914 2-2 Michaper (N 18) to A Negaria IN bit wice D Elliott (N IN) at A Rumar (Ind) wich A Microsy (Recollin) to K Corr (N 18) 4-1. Seatoned counted M Russell Engl at A Pacifican (Rus) 4-1. P Gathrest (Engl at 2 Pacific Int 2

Cricket
RED STREE CUP (Third day of four) Points—
Perms Leaverd Merchs 400 fb Joseph 118, R Ascobs 691 and 230 (R Drems) 4-661; A Semanoq
4-44): Transat and Tobres 330 (R Semin 99, M
Bodoe 65; L Weekes 5-62) and 10 for D.
SHEFFELD SHEELD Finel day of four): Perth:
Western Asstrate 224 (T Moods 80s and 361 for
8 dec 10 Martin 203no, J Langer 107; J Marquett
5-94): Transams 124 (M Diversor 106; J Angel
5-94): Transams 124 (M Diversor 106; J Angel
5-94): Transams 124 (M Diversor 106; J Angel
5-94): Restars 124 (D Seon 152, J Cos 96, M
Diversor 96). Transams who by four whiches,
Sydeny; New South Wakes 315 fb 5 dec (M regwood 97; K Roberts 72); Veltone 99 fb fix Martines
4-19, A Sound 4-20 and 338 for 8 if 6 Writish
A, 8 Roc 55, b Jones 45, T Dodensade 49no;
A Sound 4-48), Match Gress.

PARTS-RICE RACE [160.8-len, Dun-eus-Aeron to Anhusson) Second stage leading placings: 1. Whatesen (Second stage) leading placings: 1. Whatesen (Second Second Secon

#### South Africa, having won 10 one-day internationals in a row, were beaten despite some big hits

Richardson's counterpart. South African hatsmen made a

of 265.

Adams ended one threat after

another, having Andrew Hud-son (55), Daryll Cullinan (69)

and Hansie Cronje (40) held in

the deep as South Africa tried

to chase a tough victory target

Cronie's departure virtually

settled the contest but just to

make sure, the off-spinner

Roger Harper then struck three

Adams judged Jonty Rhodes'

skyer to perfection at deep

mid-wicket before Harper sent back Brian McMillan, leg before

and Steve Palframan, spectac-

from the tail-ender, Pat Symcox.

ularly caught and bowled.

times during the 41st over.

Hansie Cronje, said that Lara determined challenge. But

He struck Harper for two huge sixes but, when Shaun Pollock tried to follow suit, Adams was in the right place again. SPORTING DIGEST

Sunderland have been awarded a £2.5m/lison grant from the Football Trust towards building a new all-seater stadium at Wearmouth Colliery.

Crove (loan).

WORLD CUP Concascal qualitying tournament:

Derbbeam sone first round, first leg (Roseius);

Dominica 3 (Dominic 8, Danger per 42, Marshell 90) Angus 3 (Claire 15, Edwards 28, 74),

SURONY'S LATE RESULTS: Spanish League:
Tenenic 3 Real Macind 0, Portuguese League:
Martimo 0 Sporting 5, Italian League; Million 0 Internationale 1, Prench League; Paris St-Germent 2 Lyon D. Garmen League: Borussia Mönchengladbach 3 Harsa Rostock 2.

Nick Feldo will make his first European appearance of the season at the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxfordshire, Thame, on 16-19

PRELAND SQUAD (International v India. Mil-ton Keynete, Sandoy 24 Marcin; J Shurr (South-gate), C Glass (Haverti, S Hardit, G Fortham (Kornson), C Mayer, Mabbir Taither, Schierpe (Carrock), H Houdin, M Pearn, S Mason, J Wy-ats (Reading), D Lackes (Set Gradteed)), J Wy-dia (Guidterd), P Bredaire (Teddingon), J Malls, N Thompson (Old Loughtersens).

lee hockey NEL: Tempe Bay 1 Washington 0, Sen Jose 6 Buf-falo 4, Boston 4 Florida 1, Detroit 5 Winnipeg 2. Arishew 3 Los Angeles 2. New Jersey 3 Philadel-phia 2 (Ot).

pha 2 (ot).

BRITISH CHAMPHONSHIP PLAY-DFPS Standay
Braup At File 0 Shelfield II: Notingham I Besngstole I. Braup Bt Cardiff 2 Dumam 6; Humberside 1.1 Newcaste 3. Promotion-freelegation
play-offs, Sunday Group At Brachnel 5 Guidtoru 4; Maton Keynes 13 Brachmel 4 Group Bt
Currifice 7 Swindon 6: Menchepater 3 Stough 2.

Skiing

Skilling
1995/96 WORLD CLP Leading float standings:
Mean's overeith 1.1-bjus Over) 1.216/pm; 2.0 Marker
(PUI) 991; 3 M von Grünigen (Swit) 890. Downhitt: 1.1 Alphanol (Fir 577; 2 Medier 407; 3 Pui
Orfield (Aut) 359. Super-glant stations: 1.4
Skasstaf (Pior) 312; 2.1 H vraus (Aut) 267; 3 Pui
284, Gleert (Stations: 1.4 Grünigen 738; 2.0 H van
(Swit) 601; 3 Mgus 475. Stations: 1.5 Amile (Fir)
395; 2.4 nomba (10 490; 5.7 Sylvors (Aut) 446.
Woosen's overeit: 2.K Skitniger (Ger) 1.472; 2.0
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Erti (Ser) 1,059; 2.4 Wescher (Aut) 3,744. 3
Ert (Ser) (Sainer stations: 1.5 Erti 485; 2.5 Sconger
410; 3 Wachter 371. Stellors: 1.6 Eder (Aut) 590;
2.0 H hover (Stower) 440; 3 P Weberg (Swe) 414.
Nations' Cogr. 1 Austria 11,071; 2 Switzenand
7,181; 3 ktaly 6,284.

THARAND OPEN (Banghold) Wild card round: B Pinches (Engl to 7 Ang (Sing 5 - 1; P Hunter (Engl 9 Samigan (Tha)) 5-0; G Dort (Scot Nr P Phon-bun (Thai) 5-3; G Porting (Engl to A Teranon (The) 5-2. First resund: 5 Dates (Engl N S Lee (Engl 5-3; A Roundoux (Carl to N Bond (Engl 5-4; N Doberty (Rep int to 7 Knowles (Engl 5-5-1; N Doberty (Rep int to 7 Knowles (Engl 5-5-1; N Doberty (Rep int to 7 Knowles (Engl 5-5-1; N Doberty (Rep to 17 Knowles (Engl 5-5-1; N Doberty (Rep to 18 Knowles (E

SHETIO
SPENIA GRAND TOURNAMENT (Oseka, Japan)
Second day of LS: Kirkenime (won 1 los: 1) to
Shidekime (1-1); Garyu (1-1) to Koronacume (1-1);
Hammonime (1-1) to Kasungku (1-1); Notokeppu (1-1) to Herio (1-1); Kasnostro (1-1) to
Regischedol (1-1); Minisphiy (1-1) to Casnono
(1-1); Waleshopp (1-1) to Koronacum (1-1); Mototami (2-0)
to Castol (0-2); Ogimethia (1-1); Mototami (2-0)
to Castol (0-2); Ogimethia (1-1); Mototami (1-1)
to Kasnonocum (1-1) to Capothiam (0-2); Angome (1-1) to Higonoum (0-2); Toesmonia
(1-1) to Higonoum (1-1); Toesmoniami
(1-1) to Kasnonimi (1-1); Kotonamia (1-1)
to Kasnonimi (1-1); Kotonamia (1-1); Kotonamia
(2-0) to Kalnonimi (1-1); Talesmonimi (1-1) to
Termalaskuga (1-1); Kotonowika (2-0) to
Walenohama (1-1); Musesminami (1-1) to Miniugsam (0-2); Talesmonima (2-0) to Marnoumi
(1-1)

STATE FARM EVERT CUP (Indian Wells, Callf)
Second round (US unless stated): C Marure: (Sp) bt F Labat (Arg 6-2-6-6-2; h Date
(Japan) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-7-6-1-6-2; t
Datersport (US) bt M De Swand; (SA) 6-3-7S; M J Femandez (US) bt A Smastrova (Isr;
6-0-2-6-6-1: ) Haland-Decugs: Fri 6-1-3-6-6-4\$\frac{1}{2}\$ Exprise (Rom) bt S Hack (Gert 1-5-7-6-1)
Wiestner (Aut) bt E Lishovsteva (Rus) 6-4-6-2:
L Neiland (Lati bt N Sewamatsu (Japan 7-5-16-6-2: Lie HuS) bt J Q Y (China 6-4-6-4-6-6-2:
J Capriati (US) bt S-T Wang (Tapen) 6-0-6-0.

# \*\*INDEPENDENT

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### 'Brawl' clubs face charges

'Hurricane' all blown out

The British Ice Hockey Association is set to charge Durham Wasps and Humberside Hawks with bringing the game into dis-repute following the scenes that caused the abandonment of the championship play-off game in Sunderland, writes Gwilym Lloyd. The Hawks led 1-0 when po-

lice stopped the game after just 58 seconds, arresting six players. Frank Dempster, the BIHA disciplinary chairman, said: "There's a chance we will charge both clubs with disrepute and we're looking at the role of the two coaches as well. They too could face charges."

Football

7.30 poless stated

Chelesa v Mancieman very (Chelesa v Mancieman very (Chelesa (Chele

The decision to replay the game tomorrow night at either Nottingham or Blackburn has angered the Humberside chairman, Terry Geraghty. "How can they make that decision? We are going to the BIHA on Thursday with our lawyers. They

can't do anything before then.
We want them [Wasps] banned."
As for possible legal action following the pre-match incident when the Hawks defenceman, Bruce Bell, was allegedly set on by two Durham players, Geraghty has pledged full sup-port for his player. "We will back him all the way through the courts," he said.

No one from the Durham club was available for comment.

Rochdele v Preston (7.45) Torquey v Gillingham (7.45)...

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGLE FIRST DIVISION Morton v Ducierrathe

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD-NORTHERN FINAL SECOND LEG Cartiste (0) y Rotherheis (2) (7.45

SOUTHERN FINAL SECOND LEG Briefol Rovers (1) v Shrewsbury (1)

ICES LEAGUE Premier Division: Ayesbury v Heb-dom: Chemsey v Worthing (7.45); Grays v Enfeldt St. Abers v Dulwich (7.45); Sunon Utd v Car-chalton. Fleet Division: Berthamserd v Barlang (7.45); Bileacuy v Trams (7.45); Arabichied v Begrun Regs (7.45); Gootal City V Bann Roves (7.45); Tooling & Machem v Whyteleafe (7.45);

THOMAS AND USER CUP Finels draw: Thomas Cop: Group A China, England, Indonesia finitionsis, Sweden, Group & Denmark, Hong Kong, Malayas, Susth Acras, Uber Cup: Group A China, Ispen, Russia, Indonesia finitional, Caroup B Denmark, England, Hong Kong, South Korea, (Finels to take place in Hong Kong from 16-26 May). The New York Knicks, racked by dis-

sension and struggling against even the NBA's worst teams, gave the league leaders, Chicago Bulls, their worst beating of the year, 104-72, in New bork on Sunday, in Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 15 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter as the Magc set an NBA record with their 39th consecutive home wm, 122-106 over the Phoenia Suns. Orlando surpassed the mark set by the Boston Celtics bridging the 1985/86 and 1986/87 Seasons.
NBA: Orlando 122 Procent: 106; Mismi 88
Geveland 81: Boson 110 Ministries 103:
LA Cappers 104 Phasatepris 102; Urah 104
Merresota 96; Pordand 113 Inders 106 (of;
Houston 95 Vancouver 85; Washington 99
Adents 91; New York, 104 Chologo 72; Sarr Arrondo 106 Seatule 105; Tororko 128 Del-las 112; New York, 99 Derwer 88; Sacra-mento 96 Goldan State 96.

ongone beauty (7.45); Geneborough Treaty Boston Bitc Knowsiey v Merens. First Divisions Radolffs v Warrington; Workington v Beautoot; Workson v Ashton Utd. President's Cop second round replay; Button v Gulsery.

reptag: Button v Guiseley.

BKAZER HOMES LEASLE Pennier Division: American v Gurton Abbino: Baldock v Halesowen Town: Dorchester v Cambridge Cay (7.45); Gloucester Chy v Safford Rangers; Gressley Rosen v Sudtury Toen. Midiand Division: Buckington Town v Button (7.46); Bedsham v Corby (7.45); Wing's Igm v Biston (7.45); Redition v Garntheon (7.46); Rotherel v Solthuli (7.45); Sturbridge v Bridgenthe. Southern Division: Bigentiere v Trombridge (7.45); Canderlord v Fareham (7.45); Torchridge v Poole (7.45); Winney v Smithstonne (7.45).

TODAY'S FIXTURES Ubundes v Wembley; Wolangram v Marton, Second Division: Brachnell v Withern 17.451; Crestant v Hendell Herrystee (17.45); Coving v Metropoltan Police (7.45); Egyan v Hungartord (7.45); Lestiethend v Carsey Eland (7.45); Memblev v Tibury (7.45). Third Division: Over Vogstad (7.45); Hosefeld v East Thursch (7.45); Hartord v Lewes (7.45); Hornstruck v Areley (7.45); Hosefeld v Bast Thursch (7.45); Hosefeld v Bast Thursch (7.45); Horshem v Northwood (7.45); Guardian Insurance Cap febrar heand: Heydrige Serfiz v Vingenorian. Semi-Fised second lag: Alderstot (3) v Hischin (0).





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nues emper y derby.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Finst Division
Burscopy y Traffort; Glescop y Cheddeton; Kids
grove y Derwer (7.45), Chedlenge Cap fourth
round replays Holler DE y Atherton Collectes.

DOT, WRINGER VICTORIST (7-0).

MITTER BIT EPPRESS MILLARD ALLIANCE Boldmen v Cressrown Handley Auteric v Bother Santhal Sattles, Stiffer i Receives (7.45). Experiently in Monoratery Victoria (7.45). William at Barwell (7.45). Indicate in Reviews Crus semi-final first leng Costoury v Meet Mediands Police. ersat Attl.S LEASLE Premier Division: Barrasple v Broots 17.45); Creptenham v Cane. Odd Down v Mangashald.

timuet sussex county LEague First Divi-sion: Burgess Hij v Sizimot; Hallshem v Eist-bourne Town; Shoreham v Mite Oak (7.45). LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan LIGO V Barry. FAI HARP LAGER CUP Quarter-final Rugby Union

SWALEC CLP Stein round: Cardel Institute v
Dunart (7.0).

WRU MEDWEEK COMPETITION Pool A: Aberopen v Postrypcol (7.0).

MART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Worosservine & Horefordshire v
Debysture (7.30) (at Stautstage).

CLUB MATCHES: Lychey v The Army (7.0); Swenseav Neigh (7.0); Tredegar v Treordry (7.0); Wasps v Royal Navy (7.0); Serves v Abersion (7.0). Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Hernel Hempsi v Worthing Bears (7.15).

BILLIARDS: World Professional Meastnery Charteionship (Country House Hotel, Beth)

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# The night that Ali and Frazier were as one

Ken Jones celebrates the 25th anniversary of a fascinating title fight that was 'among the most thrilling in boxing history'

On the way to hospital for an exam-ination of his swollen jaw, Muham-mad Ali awakened briefly from exhaustion to mutter: "Must have been a helluva fight. I'm sooo tired."

For once m a gabby, gaudy career that transcended sport, Ali understated. His loss to Joe Frazier at Madison Square Garden, New York on 8 March 1971 when challenging for the heavyweight championship was more than fatigue allowed him immediately to remember. More than just a helluva a fight, it was among the most. thrilling in boxing history.

Millions of television viewers worldwide sensed the excitement. "I don't know why people speak of Manila [the site, in 1975, of their third epic encounter]," Frazier said last week, "because the first time was the biggest fight in the world. No fight can touch it. We were both undefeated and the atmosphere was tremendous. All the roads were jammed. People

couldn't get into the city."
The novelist Budd Schulberg wrote: "When it was announced that two prize fighters, two black men, two heavyweight champions were to divide a purse of \$5m to decide which was the one true champion, a special ex-citement ran through the country, the big money excitement, for this was an event as significant to the Wall Street

Journal as it was in Ring magazine."
There was the effect of All's cultural independence too, his strident presence a symbol of black consciousness. Stripped of the title in 1967, Ali had only recently returned from more than three years in exile and was still waiting for the US Supreme Court to rule on appeal against a fiveyear prison term imposed by the Department of Justice when he refused to be drafted for Vietnam.

Polarising opinion, Ali had be-come all things to all people – hero traitor, scoundrel, zealot, bigot. philanderer, rahble-rouser prophet, but above all the most remarkable and charismatic sportsman the world has ever known

The resurrection proved difficult, Despite the efforts of a persuasive cohort, Harold Conrad, state after style hooking, Frazier was from the



Muhammad All (left) and Joe Frazier, during their first meeting 25 years ago today; Frazier won on a unanimous decision.

state had refused Ali a licence when, astonishingly, permission came from racist Georgia. Coming back in At-lanta on 7 October 1970, Ali stopped Jerry Quarry in three rounds. A victory over Oscar Boncyena in New York two months later, one that saw the tough Argentinian floored three times before he was stopped in the 15th round, brought All late contention for Frazier's title. With his ferocious Philadelphia-

and the antithesis of Ali, Frazier did not play his colour up or down. He concentrated on his work and stepped scrupulously aside from racial issues, ignoring the vibrant new militancy with which Ali was so closely identified. As a poor boy of just six, helping his father to scratch a living from parched field. Fraciet know Ugos, and dis-crimination and had a much tougher childhood than Ali, but he was content to pursue the American dream.

Thus, at a time of great social strife, he was a symbol of black conservatism. Soon, it wasn't a fight any more, it was a happening, but someone had to bring it all together. The mantle was taken up by a Hollywood hustler, Jerry Perenchio who didn't know a gumshield from a groin protector. Perenchio was bred in television, came of age with the medium, learned with others that the medium was the message. A hawker of happenings, he latched on to one that the world would

Cooke to put up the money.

Differences in application, the incommend in this property is and power added to the fascination.

To determine the true changing of the said. The powerful slugger, Frazier, who would When I climbed into the ring had deleated Jumny Ellis for the var 1 could leed goose pumples. cant title, moving relentlessly forward.

Colonities were everywhere at a respect to At but there isn't any to Landing in the out the Atl in pash and a complete the streets around? Source, what the internal one people falled the streets around? Source, what the internal of the problem of solving the style of the other. Changed hands for three times there were as one, really something.

be watching and persuaded a Cana The refered, Arthur Mercane, dan millionaire sports boff, Jack Kent - the not learn he was to bandle the

the hands of unwary puniters. me mands of unwary puniters.

When the two great champions fimally came ingether a suspicion about
Ali was soon confirmed. The hands
were still breathtakingly quick but esthe had taken away his log speed. The
finglier is went the clearer if became
that Fazzer was unining. Ali found
Present case to his but the manches his Presidences y to his but the prinches he

All averaged the defeat in a non-tifle fight and again in Manila cathing the last of the side and of the Meli-round when both men

### Ladejo leads Britain's chase for medals

Gardener taking the baton from Christie

old school, a no-nonsense champion

It seems appropriate that the Ashraf Saber, of Italy has had 24th European Indoor Athletics Championships, a stepping dence of his own eyes. "On this stone en route to this summer's Olympics, should he hosted by a city built on 14 linked islands. But if the course is set, then

for the runners at least the path is narrow. The track inside the Globe Arena here has only four tight lanes and is extremely sharp on the curves.

It's like back to the old days of indoor running," said Malcolm Arnold, Britain's director of coaching. "When you finish running one bend and you are looking down to the next one it looks like a right angle." Or, as someone suggested, a left

Whatever the angle. Du'Aine Ladejo, Britain's defending 400 metres champion, has revised his expectation of breaking Todd Bennett's national indoor

record of 45.56sec. Ladejo, who spent six years studying at an American college, has a seemingly inexhaustible capacity to be upbeat. Having said he hopes to beat the world champion, Michael Johnson, at this year's Olympics, he managed to formulate a positive take on the fact that the American has recently run 44.66sec indoors - nearly two seconds faster than his best this season. It shows that he is not in any better nick than last year," he

But even Ladejo - second in the European list this year in

to lower his sights on the evitrack I don't think breaking the record is realistic," he said, "I would go so far as to say it is not up to standard. It has probably the tightest corners I've ever

Two years ago at the Palais Omnisport in Paris, Ladejo contributed to Britain's best total of five European indoor medals, the others coming from Dalton Grant in the high jump. David Strang in the 1500m. and Colin Jackson, who completed an unprecedented dou-

hle in the 60m and 60m hurdles. Old from Bath, goes into these recently from a heavy cold.

Mike Rowbottom, in Stockholm, looks at the weekend's European Indoor Championships

Grant will detend their titles - European of the indoor season here, many of the leading Britons are absent either because of injury or a desire to concentrate on training for the Olympic outdoor season. That has given other British

talents the opportunity to raise their profiles in an event which began as the European Indoor Games in Dortmand 30 years

Jason Gardener, a 20-year-

While both Ladejo and championships as the fastest over 60m. Anthony Whiteman is another Briton for whom these championships could represent a great leap forward. He goes into the 1500m as the third fastest European this year with a time of 3min 39.47sec.

And Ashia Hansen, third in the triple jump rankings this season, is a strong medal contender despite having suffered

pole vault record holder, this weekend offers the first chance to compete in an international championship.

For Kate Staples, Britain's

Women's pole vaulting was only officially recognised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation at the beginning of last year, and it will not he included in this summer's. Olympics. As the Games get under way, Staples, now 30, will distract herself by filming another series of the TV show. Gladiators, where she appears as her alter ego, Zodiac.

But she is determined to make the most of the first

He accepts that British

#### championships where her event has been included, and hopes to improve her indoor record of 3.85m to beyond 4m with the help of a newly extended 4ft 6in

While the women's record has been broken regularly this season - the world indoor mark currently stands to China's Sun Caiyun at 4.28m - Staples would have a chance of a medal if she can achieve her objective. Staples training partner, Nick Buckfield, faces a relatively harder task in his event, where

the top seven performers in the world this year are European. But it gives him the ideal competitive environment in which to improve his recent British record of 5.61. Judy Oakes has an outside

chance of a medal in a shot putt competition which features one of only two world champions to be competing here, Astrid Kumbernuss of Germany. The other is also a German, Alina Astafci, the high jumper.

Grant's gold in Paris, the first championship victory of his

career, was no more than he deserved for his pioneering achievements in lifting British high jumping to world-class

Although Norway's European outdoor champion, Steinar Hoen, appears a clear favourite, Grant - who has as much nerve and competitive spirit as any British athlete - looks sure to

### Irish wait for Rowell's choice

STEVE BALE

himself fortunate to be in a position to reselect Jason Leonard in the England team to be named today after the prop's acquittal - though not quite exoneration - of punching Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, in last Saturday's Calcutta Cup match. With Leonard rendered avail-

able for the Triple Crown decider against Ireland at Twickenham a week tomorrow, despite having been cited for foul play by the Scottish Rugby Union, the manager has no particular motive for making any changes, unless England's inability to win consistent fine-out hall other than through Martin Johnson persuades him to reinstate Martin Bayfield. The World Cup wing Tony Under-wood, belatedly fit again, may also come under consideration.

By their line-out calls in the victory at Murrayfield, England revealed an almost total reluctance to aim for Bayfield's replacement, Garath Archer, but even so it is hard to imagine Archer's exclusion after only one cap, and Bayfield himself accepts that he will not have another. chance until next season.

one reason why the Irish delayed . their selection from breakfasttime vesterozy to dimbertime Whatever the precise nature of tonight - so as to see what Rowthe "inconclusive" video evi- ell has done first. If Bayfield were dence, Jack Rowell can count recalled, they would almost certainly recall their own discarded lock, Neil Francis. If not, Jeremy Davidson will continue. Ireland also have a selection

issue at centre, where the selectors are concerned about the flu virus that out Jonathan Bell out of the Northampton team who appeared in the guise of East Midlands against the Barbarians on Wednesday.

An obvious alternative would have been a swift recall for Kurt McQuilkin. But the New Zealander's legacy of his Baa-Baas de-but is a broken arm, leaving Mark McCall pushing for a first cap in two years while re-forming with David Humphreys and Maurice Field of the Ulster midfield triangle who played so sweetly against New South Wales.

Domestically, Moselcy's intention of signing the former All Black outside-half Franc Botica to play rugby union during the rugby league off-season local like coming to fruition by the end of the month. The Second. Division club, who are putting together a business consortium to take them into professionalism, are in negotiation with Castleford about compensation for Botica's release.

#### In what is his first major international championship, Gardener, a quietly spoken 20-year-

asked yesterday to comment on the fact that he is favourite to win today's 60 metres at the European Indoor Championships, on their shoulders and staghe raised his eyehrows, took a gered under the pressure. deep breath, and composed himself, writes Mike Rowbottom. Since the indoor match

againsı Russia in January, when won the 60m in a time of 6.55sec. which no European has yet bettered this season. Gardener has been sized up as Britain's Next Great Sprinter. Given the experience of oth-

When Jason Gardener was first compare to Limford Christie. His main rivals appear to be Jason Livingston, Darren Camphell Danny Joyce - all have felt the Christie mantle fall heavily

old from Bath. is attempting to remain light on his feet. There is no pressure," he asserted. "As long as I run to the best of my ability I will be happy.

If this son of Jamaican and Irish parents does that, he has er young athletes similarly as-sessed in the past, you might title won for Britain two years think that those sprinters whom ago by Colin Jackson, and two the gods seek to make mad, they years before that by Livingston. in my life," he said yesterday.

Marc Blume, of Germany, who has run 6.56 this year, Fernando Ramirez of Norway (6.57). Peter Karlsson of Sweden and his

Considering he regularly trains on a track in Melksham so poor it is not judged fit to hold meetings on, Gardener will no doubt regard the much-criticised Stockholm track as relatively acceptable. Whether he will have any problems with the new ultrasensitive Seiko timing system which caused such distress to many athletes at last year's World Championships remains to be seen. "I have never false-started

sprinters cannot live without reference to Christie, but says it is not necessarily a bad thing. "Having him around is good for fellow countryman, Jason John. me because he sets the standard. At the moment there are two different levels and I've got to try and establish myself." It was only two years ago that he won the European junior 100m nitle, something Britons have done on six out of the last seven occasions. None of those six have gone on to fulfil their potential. But that is a message Gardener, doing communica-tion studies in his home city, is entitled to ignore. He has talent and time on his side.

#### add to his medal collection. Nevertheless uncertainty:

JUST THE TICKET: A guide to what's on where for the sporting spectator

the opposition on 25 May, A rounter-tions men's and women's pre-Atlanta tournament has been arranged for 13 to 16 June. Great British men face a return visit from Germany, Pakistan, the world champtons, and the Nether-lands. The women take on Spain, the Olympic champions, the Netherlands

Sunday 28 May: GB v Germany (ment: at 13 April

#### This weekend

This weekend TODAY

TODAY

BOWLS: Broth Men's Championships (Auchiniech, The final day of the home enternaturals has sold out, Auchiniech EC. Amstrac. (Ed. 1929) 2:3955. English Women's Indoor Championships (Southampion). Play starts at 10am, Ionofrew the Yethon Tophy will be contested - semi-finals from 10am, with the final at 3on. Aumission: £1 par day, Banister Park, Sonteriam Lane, Eastlergh, Southampion. (Fel: 01703 643-66).

MOTOR RACINE Eurocar Senies Laurich Mallory Park). The 1996 Eurocar Senies is suniciced today, allowing the public to see the new VS models in action on the Mallory Mille, the count's beat contest? beat cross. The king naund of this year's championania will be held at the orout on 8 And and today will be a hill programme of practice from 9am. Admission: £2. Mallory Park is of AA7 at Risky Mallory, Leossierthire, between Leibester and Hinckley. (Tel. 01455 842931).

VOLLEYBALL Men's Pen-European Cap 10-

terpine, between Laboster and Particley. Title, 01455 842931.

VOLLEYBALL: Ment's Pen-European Cup (Oxford end Poole). The Labrans are bringing tree stoneest seam yet to this competition, while Scotland fields its full National side. This hill be the city occasion England plan Scotland this year, Programmer today. Scotland subas (6.0): England y Great British Lons (8.0). Tomorowic England y Breat British Lons (8.0). Tomorowic England Juriors v Scotland Juriors v Scotland Juriors (3.0): Lottes v CB Lons (6.0). England V Scotland (8.0). Specially is the (places are Impect). University Special Centre, filley Rinad, Uddord, (16: 01865 240-16). On Sunday, all matters with be need in Proder Scotland v GB Lons (2.0): England Juliana (4.0). Admission: £2 adults, £1 children Dolphin Centre, Poole, Dorset.

TOMORROW

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL: FA Cup frith-round replay: TottlenFrom Northgram forest. Such round: Chefsea
Windberton (3.0). FA Caring Premership, Endcleigh League, Bed's Scottish League,
RUGBY LEAGUE: Salk Car. Challengo Cup
semi-snet: St Helens v Widnes (2.15).
RUGBY URROW: CS Insurance County Chanponcing semi-drast Lancastine v Warselchine
(2.30) for Presson Graschoppeng. Counted
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HOCKEY: Women's Mornstonat Reland. England (Duolin). Men's Rutional League. TOMORROW

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ATMERINGS: Revook English National Cross.
Country Championarius: Newarin. Andrew
Pearson, the leading Brish cross-country ranner this winter and 1995 European bronze
medallist, and Eamonn Marin, have Nationof winner at Nerson, trave confirmed their enby in the men's race, which has a massive field
of more than 3,000. The seven-race programme
opens with the uniter-£17 men's ege group at
11.30 am sentor women's race [64m] start at
2.15 and sentor men (14km) at 2.50pm, Srowgound, Nerson, Nordhyshirshire.
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water shortage.

IBalai. Racing has been cancelled because of water shortage. DARTES WDC UK Matcholay Tournament (Joncasser. Alan Warmer, the World Darts Councel for 3, defends reside. Today: 2pm (admission: £5), 7,302m (£5): £10 all days. Iomonous 2pm (£5), 7,302m (£7): £10 all days. Season belief: £20. The Done Lessure Park is signosted on #630 off M18 from M1 and to opposite procedure and next to Donesser Rovers RC. (Re: Q1302, 370399). er Rowers PC, Tiet: 01302 3709799.
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Evening (Buch algoen). The evening features
musical displays from leading British both gradsage riden; Admission: ES, Addregion Ecusitical Centre. Buckingtonn. (Tel: 01296
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take to the basis of Betgebun Forest, with 1905 staring at 8,30cm tomorrow and Survisy, From MLS junction from, you ACI makings Hestings, Near Purest, take 18279 9/2700500 Energy burgGoadhurg, Mittings two mikes, briton signs on enterior to forest pass on right, it West Forest Duting Office.

Forest District Office:

NETBALLI International Matches: Reducts of the and Under-18 v England Under-16 12.0.;

Reducts of Instand v England Under-21 1.1.0;

Reducts at Dustrict Only University, Companies of England Vinder-21 1.1.0;

Region 111.1.15; Wares Senet v North-West, Region 111.1.15; Wares Under-21 v Scottland Under-21 112.55; Aericason, 26 actors, 62 children, December Lesure Centre, Queensternay, Children.

Under-21.112.59. Admission, 25 admis, £1-children, Deeude Leisure Centro, Queender-y, Craydd.

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FOOTBALL: FA Cup sem round Leeds - us-erpod -4 G, Terrent's Sugast Cup fifth round: Cetto v Bundee Ltd (2.15). RUGBY UNION: CIS Insurance Courts Champoorthip semi-final: Surrey / Gloucestersine 12.45) lat (index Court). HOCKET Nomen's memborial letter 1 Erg.
Land (Duster).

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CORES BOW 1 LEDGS

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PICK OF THE DAY SUNDAY/Motocross

British championships. Swaniey

The national champions will make. their presence felt in the first mund of the British championship at the on the British championship at the demanding Canada Heights circuit, Swanley, Kent, this Sunday, One impressive champion, however, will also be on this list. Stefan Everts, the world 250cc champion from Belgium, has been given a wild card to note in the championship this year for the domestic works team, RWJ Silkolene Honda. He will add spice to the Open class. Joining him are the nders who Enistred first and second last sea son. Paul Cooper, the champion. from Blaby, and the Maidstone rid-er, Mark Eastwood, who carries on the family tradition from his father.

(2.15). Praile at 20m. Admission pay at North Side, indoor Side od., Lord's Choket Ground, St John's Wood, London MW8, 10171 286 3649. 3649. SOCION. British Religious Champions Series (Benda Hatth). Demot Carnego, the orientally champion, drives in the oponing size, with competition wild Golden, of Carnethary, and Beny Squade, of Torquey, Mindianath Streeth, driven in the Brands Hatth Crist. In Feastham, March 1981, 300 between Suggiegy and Austral and three mark from jurician mass. With The 2017-4-8723313 National Hat Rods March Champions of Designey count (Mindianath Champions of Designey count (Mindianath Champions of Designey County (Mindianath Champions of Designey County (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions (Mindianath Champions of Mindianath Champions of Mi

Vic, who competed in the Seven-ties, will give Everts no quarter. In the 125cc class, Josiem Kartsson, the British champion from Sweden who also rides for RWJ, leads out Rikit Priest, the runner up from Kiddeminister, and the Wreshern no-er. Neil Prince, who was third less year. Following practice and pre-sentation of the riders, the first 125oc championship race opens the meeting. A combined class final, Involving the leading 20 riders from the two estagories on the

ers from the two-estegories on the day, completes the racing.

How to get these: Canda Ingen, Buton Steel, September Rei a separated from person three of M25, the A20 marching. Programmer. 9-38mm: Practice. 11-30mm: Practice. 11-30mm: Practice. 12-50mm: 125cc champlember has face 2.0 Open champlember of these. 12-15om: 125cc champlember has face 2.0 Open champlember has faced 2.0 Complete condition.

1.40pm; Support case 4.15pm; Continued Case that feature 20 open in 125cc and corn micro oth Administration 20 open in 125cc and corn micro oth Administration 2.1 adults. 44 7-14 years, laxie-75 free.

MEDIC WOOL MODE (
FOOTBALL (7.30 unless stated): Monday: FA Cup acoth resemb Menchester Utd v
Souther-pron (8.0). Tuseday: FA Carling Premierable Chrisco v Mandancer Chr (7.45). Endelogis Insurance Langue First Disisions Birmangiam v Nuchersies (7.45). Sprintly
Friedo v Transiero (7.45). Second Divisions (7.45): Port vale v Solid (7.45). Second Divisions (7.45): Port vale v Solid (7.45). West 
Biometry Wester (7.45). Second Divisions 
(7.45): Port Vale v Solid (7.45). Vision v
Crestarion: Notes County v York (7.45). Wester 
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Chestarion: Notes County v York (7.45). Wester 
V Care (7.45): Monday v Garding (7.45). The 
V Chestarion: Notes County v York (7.45). Wester 
V Care (7.45): The Wester v Boursmouth. 
Third Division: County v Mandance (7.45). Auto Winday v Care (7.45). The 
V Plesson (7.45): The 
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nat second leg: Caristie (0) v Rotherham (2) (7.45). Southern Aren final second leg: Brivato Revent (1) v Streamstary (1). 8th Venacinal Confessance (7.45): Encougers v Testard, familiary (1). 8th Venacinal Confessance (7.45): Encougers v Testard, familiary virial control of Venacinal Confessance (7.45): Encougers v Testard, familiary virial control of Venacinal Confessance (7.45): Encouger v Venacinal Confessance (7.45): Encouger Virial Confessance (7.45): Encouger Virial Confessance Virial Confessance (7.45): Encountry Virial Confessance Constituted Virial Confessance Virial

on-uper-Mare v Plymouth (7.30).

RACHNE Monday: Confluid Cub £12 (OAPs and under-21s £3); Ratersalis £5 (OAPs and under-21s £3); Ratersalis £5 (OAPs and under-21s £3). First race 2.10). Plaughten Alember £12; Transfers £8; Course £4. (2.20). Yesustoon Members £11; Paddock £9.30; Certe of Course £4. (2.2). Transfers Chelitersham: Club £50; Tottersalis £20; Februr's Endocrare £10, 2.13); Sandpalled Product £8 (OAPs £4); Course £2. (2.0). Wilnebory Club £11; Tutersalis £8; Shier Ring £4. (2.30). Washington: Members £10; Paddock £8; Austragidons Members £12; Paddock £8; Paddock £8;

Course EA. (2.40). Newton Abboth Temperalis £8.50; Course £A. Accombanied under-16e free. (2.0). Thermalay: LINGTEED (AW Find): Marmbast £13, Tamosanie £9. Save Fing £5. (2.30), Challesbusse an Tubeday. (2.15). Revision: Cab £9: Paddicto £9 (OAP) £41. (2.0). Pidday: WOLLYSHAMAPTON FAW Find: Excurso £5; additional £10 for enteriors to Viderity Restation: additional £15.50 for mest. (2.20). Falleshamat Marabers £10; Greatistand and Praddoct £5 (accompanied under-16s fine all endoares). (2.10). Followshamat Cab £12 (under-16s fore); fatterasels £8.50. (2.01). NEXT WIENCEND

NEXT WEEKEND
POOTBALL: Sameday: FA Carting Premiership,
Endslagh Ledger and Self's Scottish Lasgue,
Sonday: FA Carting Premiership: Lends v Bierton (4.0). Self's Scottish Lasgue Premier Divison: Rangess v Cotto. Endsleigh Ledgere Flost
Olvalor: Bananghan v Samodard (3.0), Anglo-Ralen: Cup time! Port. Vale v Gennos (1.30)
(at Wernbley), Republic Fort. Vale v Gennos (1.30)
(at Wernbley), Republic Fort. Vale v Gennos (1.30)
(at Wernbley), Republic Fort. Carting Premierships
Rescuelle v West. Hem. (8.0).
RICERY (1900ts-Saturday: Fay Ratins' Corriponehor: England v Ireland (3.0) fat Cardiff Arms
Parts. Std. Teoryans: 1558 Cup fourth rund.
RecCRed: Sebasday: Into Not Ret Market (1.0) PARCHAS, Sacharday, WOLMERGHAMPTON (AMPRICA)
FIRST: as Pridey, (F.G.), Hansford: Cub. 5.12;
Telmusals £9; Course onclosure £5; (2.20),
Ideglade on Russian, (2.25), Nancandia: Cub.
£12; Tatassals £9; Saver Ring £4 (£2 for CAPs.
and registered disabled), (2.15), Ethesahart
Cub £20 (DAPs £12); Tatassals £12 (DAPs.
£7); Course £3. (2.0).

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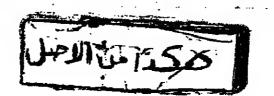
The international opening of the £9.5m hational Hockey Stadium at Million Keynes on Sunday 24 March, when England's man play India and the women emittain France, sets in motion a high-profile programme of matches in the build-up to Atlanta.

On 13 April Great Bittain women controls the Observice Garmes preparations. time their Olympic Games preparation by tacking the Nethedends. The following month is is the turn of the men when

Surany 24 May, CBV is Germany (ment; as 13 April,
Trussibly 13 June: GB v Spain (women),
Netherlands v Germany (women), GB v Germany (man), Netherlands v Pailstan (men),
Friday 14 June: Netherlands v Pailstan (men),
Friday 14 June: Netherlands v Spain (scoren),
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is Germany (women), Netherlands v Germany (men),
GB v Rebusts as for 24 Mayors, Sunday 16 June: Germany v Spain (women), CBB v
Netmariands (women), Germany v Pailstan (Men), GB v Netherlands (men); cliented 112 SG, Smily colored £35; uncovered £10-adults, £7 SO Juniors, family uncovered £25, Season delec (13-16 June); \*\*CSO. Details of forthcoming events with

information on tickers and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Cana-da Square, Canary Wharf, London EL4 5DL. Far. 0171 293 2894

Compiled by Paul Maher



ROBERT FISK

Boris Yeltsin and Ali Akbar-Hashemi Rafsanjani may seem unlikely allies, but you could tell from the glint in the Iranian President's eye yesterday that Boris may have pulled another fast one on the Americans. Just as he sprang a peace plan on Washington in Bosnia, so the Washington in Bosnia, so the Russian President is strengthening his hand in tomorrow's Middle East summit - nnknown, it seems, to either the

United States or Israel. "Well yes, we have just re-ceived a message from President Yelisin," Mr Rafsanjani told us yesterday in an off-hand way, a chance remark - or so it was made to seem - in a press conference answer on Iran's international trade relations. "He suggested that Iran and the

tiative against terrorism. We are Tajikistan, for example, and also negotiating with them to have government co-operation in the field as well. We have felt deeply the effects of terrorism and we are ready to co-operate with any group seriously interested in this subject."

The eyes twinkled again. Iso-lated Iran may be by President Bill Clinton's Israeli-supported policy of "dual-containment" but Ali Akbar and Boris, it would seem, may have a surprise or two in store for us. Mr Rafsanjani said again, "he [Mr Yeltsin] proposed an anti-terrorist congress and I agreed with this." Were we to take this seriously? The message had been brought from Moscow by the Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, on Friday after the Iranians performed a few useful services for the Russians: shoring up an-other four-month ceasefire in

urging peace upon Armenia and Azerbaijan

While it is still unclear how many seats his supporters won in last week's parliamentary elections - and while he has only another 11 months in the presidency - the Iranian President has clearly not lost the old Rafsanjani magic. The Billy Bunter curl beneath the turban bas grown grey and the checks are apple red. The creases round the big, watchful eyes bave grown deeper. But bis fine hrown cloak was of Scottish plaid and he positively soaked up the lights of the television cameras in Tehran yesterday. After all, it was only a few days ago that he achieved the clerical ascent from Hojatoleslam to

Of tomorrow's "antiterrorism" summit in Egypt be evinced a mixture of contempt

and no interest. "I seek oriented towards certain ference only as a problings: this is his 'penchant'."

ploy - because the pear themselves support [Iran was not interested in the themselves support [Iran was not interested in the themselves support [Iran was not interested in the trans that Iran was behind the Hamas suicide hombings.

President Rafsanjani poohtonaid.

"We do not believe was to show no tolerance for nawas to show no tolerance for na-

majority to rule, that would he

acceptable. Which means, since the displaced Palestinians

of 1948 and their children

amount to 3,500,000 souls, that

the land of mandate Palestine

peace [process], which tions like Iran which criticised the nature of this peace. cold peace, because the rights of Palestinis And the Rafsanjani peace plan? "Racial discrimination ing destroyed. Millio by an ethnic government known placed Palestinians as a Jewish government is not acceptable. But if all groups -Jordan and Lebano: fering. No man of in can possibly believe lews, Christians and Muslims can live together there and the a peace can he vi displaced people be returned and an election held to allow the permanent"

In reference to Mr trade embargo on Iral he announced last year ish meeting in New Ye wearing a kippa. Mr Ru said that when Min wears the hat of the Jes head, it is quite obviore

Iranian hit-squads roamed ahroad after the regime's enemies: no mention here of the assassination squad from Tehran locked up for trying to kill Shahpour Bakhtiar in Paris, only to be freed in return for French hostages in Beirut. Iran supported Hamas as a

freedom movement but it did not support political violence. It gave moral, not military support.
To say that we should condemn the struggle by Palestinians, no, we shall never condemn this struggle. But if you say that we are supporting violent actions by these movements, this is not true. We are not." Tut-tut, you would return an Arah Muslim

could almost hear the Ayatollah saving. Tut-tut.

He wagged an admonishing figure at President Saddam

Hussein for killing his sons-inlaw - "There was no mercy!" ex-claimed the leader of the world's most radical Islamic state - and gently warned Jordan against trying to take over Iraq. He is a regular listener to the BBC Persian service: "I hear you every night and it's nice to meet you," he greeted a stunned BBC representative. But he never lost the edge in his

voice Iowards Washington.

"America may think that with
the end of the Soviet Union. they can be a father - or, should I say, a godfather - for the world, but we are a strong Muslim country . . and if insecurity is created in this country. many parts of the world will be-come insecure." Which was either a threat or a warning.

#### Tehran linked to Turkish murders

HUGH POPE

Iran had cluse links with a pro-Islamic gang that killed at least two prominent Turkish secularist writers six years ago, Istanbul police said yesterday. On Thursday they arrested a senior gang member. Irfan Cagrici, at

a "safe house" in the city.

He was shown to reporters after four days of interrogation that police said revealed his leading role in the killing of the anti-fundamentalist columnists Cetin Emec and Turan Dursun.

The police said that Mr Cagrici's small group, which called itself the Islamic Action Or-ganisation, had also repeatedly helped Iran to act against the People's Mujahedin, the Iranian opposition group. In 1992, the police state-

ment said, Mr Cagrici's group kidnapped a Mujahedin ac-tivist, Ali Akhar Gorbani, and handed him over to Iranians who interrogated him and then killed him. The group alleged. ly also put hombs in two Mujahedin-owned vehicles and handed a reconnaissance report to the Iranians about the activities of the pro-Shah activist Abhas Golizade, who was kidnapped in late 1992. Mr Cagrici was said to have

first gone to Iran in 1982, where "after a short period of training he came back to Turkey and founded the group called 'Hizbollah' in Turkey

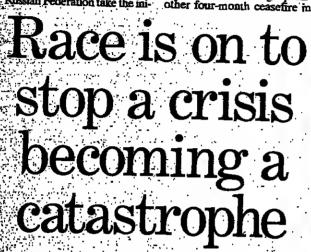
Police broke up the Hiz-bollah group in 1984 - it was not the last to bear that name in Turkey - and Mr Cagrici later formed the Islamic Action Organisation. Travelling to and from Iran with group members for what police said was "political and military training", the gang apparently financed themselves by raids on jewellery shops and other thefts.

The police's first break against the Islamic Action Organisation came in 1993, when they caught a member trying to steal a car. He had a beeper with a message that led them to one of the group's operations houses. Most group members appear to come from the Kurdish south-east of the country.

have concluded that Iran ordered the killings and that Iran may also have had a hand in larists io Ankara - Muammer Aksoy and Bahriye Ucok in 1990 and Ugur Mumcu in 1993 - the Turkish foreign ministry said it had no information on

The Iranian embassy denied that its diplomats directed the group. A spokesman wondered aloud if Turkish police declarations were not timed to coincide with tomorrow's anti-

terrorism summit in Egypt.



Patrick Cockburn on the chances of success at tomorrow's Mid-East summit

that remains to us between crisis and catastrophe we may as well bave a glass of champagne, "a French diplomat said Last week, he said Israel was at a conference in the 1930s, de only "a quarter of an bour flating expectations that a meeting of international leaders could do much to avert the Second World War.

As at least 22 world leaders. led by President Bill Clinton, gather at the Movempick Hotel in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el Sheikh tomorrow, they are likely to be less frank about their united ability to prevent the crisis in relations between Israel

accords of the last three years new Palestinian President. unrayel More suicio Israel would probably force Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, to send tanks into Gaza and the West Bank cities: public opinion would leave him with little choice.

Palestinians would certainly fight back. There are 30,000 armed troops - called "police" in the treaty - in the aulonomous areas who would re-

Jerusalem - "In the moment been raised by Oslo. They would not accept reoccupation

Mr Peres can see this well. away from achieving peace". But too many Israelis think the clock is stuck and going backwards if peace means more, not less, dead bodies.

The Sharm el Sheikh conference, chaired by Mr Clinton and President Mubarak of Egypt, and attended by the main European leaders including President Boris Yeltsin, President Jacques and the Palestinians turning Chirac, Chancellor Helming and they know it would not be take much to make the peace Peres and Yasser Arafat, the take much to make the peace new Palestinian President.

Mr Peres, who faces the electorale on 29 May, is fighting for his political life. Not surprisingly, be has given the conference an ecstatic welcome. A Labour minister said cynically that "one photograph of the anti-terror conference equals a

thousand election ads". Binyamin Netanyahu and his

Protest: In Amman, Franker this would be a whitewash," a lt Likud statement said. "The conference will not solve the problem. The heads of state will come and go and we will be stuck with the lerror."

For Mr Arafat, Sbarm el Sheikh has advantages. Palestinians may not have their own country but the world will do a lot to preserve their autonomous areas. The meeting

will give him a little in which to cultivate other Arah leaders, many still coolince he backed Iraq in the Gulf ar. But the conference also haslangers for the Palestinian leads It may push him further than wants to go. He knows he musot ap-

pear a US or Israeli pipet. allies and often not then. Israel wants the corrence to be about terror ected against itself. Mr Peresys he wants it to take three scrical

e, expresses opposition to Mr Arafat and the tactics of the Israelis cking down on him, the US, always one of its goals. measures: an attack on Hamas spite its offices in Iran and Syr-quires some rewriting of imances, exchange of information about Islamic militants hetween states, and tougher border controls. None is likely to he productive: Middle East governments rely on their secret police and do not share information readily except with close

> The conference might damage Hamas by cutting its links with conservative countries like Saudi Arabia and Jordan. De-

ia. Hamas was created in 1988 by the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza, which was heavily supported by the Hashemite monarchy in Jordan and the Saudi royal family. In its first year, Hamas was even smiled on by the Israeli authorities, who thought it would siphon off

support from the PLO. Another problem is that the US wants the conference to be

history, Islamic Jihad, a smaller, less political organisation, was traditionally the chosen instrument of Iran.

Not much outside support would have been necessary to stage the recent attacks. Three of the latest bombings were carried out by recently recruited students using old Italian mines from Sinai. No skill, experience or equipment was necessary directed against Iran. This re- other than a willingness to die.

#### Likud bloc, hoping to oust Mr Peres and Labour, suspect Sharm el Sheikh might give him a political kiss of life. "If the consist. The expectations of 2.3 will bring Mr Arafat closer to cupied territories have also ference embraces Arafat inmillion Palestinians in the oc-'Super Tuesday' set to be Dole's triumph

JOHN CARLIN Washington ·

Imagine an Iraqi presidential election. Imagine a British gen-eral election. Imagine England in a game of one-day cricket against anyone. Each would generate more suspense than to-day's "Super Tuesday" leg of the Republican presidential primary contest.

The Republican faithful in Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana and Oregon will be going to the ballot boxes today not so much to elect Bob Dole as to anoint him. The only remaining ques-tion, and the one that will soon dominate the agenda of Washington's political professionals, is who Mr Dole will select as his vice-presidential running mate. The question is more critical

than it usually is at this stage in the presidential race because, on his own, the dour, wry senator from Kansas is not considered to have a hope against the telegenic Bill Clinton. Put Colin Powell, the black retired general who declined to run for president, next to him on the ticket, however, and, as the American football commentators say, "now we have a ball game".

Whereas every poll which pits Mr Dole in a straight contest against Mr Clinton leaves Mr Dole the loser by 10 points, a Time-CNN poll con-ducted clast week showed that Dole-Powell would beat

Clinton-Gore 47 to 45. Alfonse D'Amaio, a Republican senator who is co-chairing Mr Dole's campaign (and coincidentally chairing the Senate Whitewater investigations), added his substantial voice to a chorus of Republican whisper-

true: "Colin Powell would invigorate the Republican Party, would invigorate the ticket, would help it to become a winning ticket," Mr D'Amato said

yesterday. Mr D'Amato, who has been accused in the past of a ten-dency to be economical with the truth, insisted in an interview with the Associated Press that he had not talked to Mr Dole

Arithmetic of Super Tuesday Delegates needed to clinch nomination: 996 Doie 73 Forbes 62 Buchanan

Delegates at stake today: Oklahoma Tennessee Mississippi Oregon Louisiana 362 Total:

about General Powell, but had every intention of doing so. The reason pragmatic Republicans believe General Powell is what the party needs, of course, is that before his announcement in November that he would not be running in 1996, poll after poll had-showed he was the

people's choice. However, while Mr Dole himself is known to be enthusiastic about running with the

ers praying for the Dole-former bead of the Joint Chiefs Powell dream team to come of Staff, the general himself does not appear to be willing. If the likes of Mr D'Amato are still persevering it is because, first, General Powell bas declared himself to be a Republican and, second, hecause having proved so publicly in-scrutable and privately indecisive last year about his political intentions, he might yet he prevailed upon this year to come to the rescue of the old

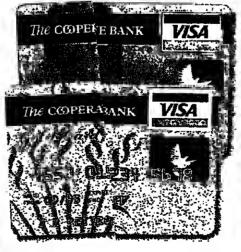
soldier Dole. If General Powell cannot be persuaded, the figure most often mentioned for the Republican vice-presidential candidacy is Christine Todd Whitman, the Governor of New Jersey. She would lend some symbolic balance to the Re-publican ticket in the sense that she is young and dynamic, that she is an East-coaster (rather than a Mid-Westerner), and that she is a woman.

On policy, however, she shares Mr Dole's fiscal conservatism and, by the standards of the Republican Party's funda-mentalist Christian factions, social liberalism. Like General Powell, she is pro-choice on abortion. Which means that if Mr Dole settles on her he should be prepared to expect "Pitchfork" Pat Buchanan to lead his Christian crusaders into battle.

Last week Mr Buchanan, who intends to keep on running for the Republican nomination no matter how many times he is lapped by Mr Dole, said that if General Powell emerged as the vice-presidential candidate be would lead conservative Christians in a walk-out from the party's convention in San

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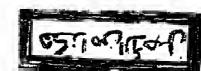
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A hazardous game of hrink-manship gathered pace in the Taiwan Strait vesterday as Chinese troops readied themselves for new exercises, the United States moved an aircraft carrier into the region, and the Taiwan president, Lee Teng-hui, said the island's people "must unite and struggle on".

In Peking, the Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, said it was "ridiculeus" for anyone to call for the United States to intervene in defence of Taiwan. "I think these people must have forgotten the fact that Taiwan is a part of Chinese territory," he said. "It is not a protectorate of the United States."

Nine days of naval and aircraft exercises using live ammunition are due to start today. the latest move by Peking to intimidate Taiwan ahead of presidential elections on 23 March. Taiwan government officials said preparatory troop movements had been detected, and that the exercises at the south end of the strait would include missile firings, antisuhmarine measures, artillery and bombing runs.

China has marked out a large rectangular zone for the exercises, which reaches to about 40 miles from the Taipei-held is-land of Quemoy and also touches the mid-point of the Taiwan

The US Secretary of State. Warren Christopher, calling China's actions "reckless", said a battle group led by the aircraft carrier Independence would be moved "somewhat closer" to Tarwan "in a position to be helpful if they need to he". A guided-missile frigate and a

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Scoul is freezing this week, and

the touts had been queuing for

destroyer have been added to Taiwan there will he grave the group, which will be in international waters hetween Taiwan and the Japanese island of Okinawa.

An Aegis-type cruiser, the Bunker Hill, has been positioned to the south of the Taiwan strait to monitor China's exercises. The nuclear-powered carrier Nimit: plus support ships will also arrive in the region "in about two weeks", according to the Pentagon. With all these vessels in place, the US force would include more than 110 carrierbased strike aircraft and ships with more than 200 Tomahawk

Mr Christopher said the Chinese tests could have "grave consequences". China's actions, he said, "smack of intimidation and coercion. So that is a situation of great concern to us.

cruise missiles.

Anthony Lake, President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, said in a television interview that if the Chinese military exercises led to "accidents". Peking would be "held accountable". And he added: "We have also said that if they attack consequences." US officials have said that

while they believe China's puhlie assurances that it will not invade Taiwan, the decision to dispatch the naval task force had been guided by "prudence". However, the officials were at pains to stress that the US intended to maintain its policy of constructive engagement with China, described by Mr Christopher as a country "so important we must find some way to manage those areas of

disagreement".
Mr Lake said the White House still planned to per-suade the US Congress to renew favourable trade conditions for China when a current agreement expires this summer.

Mr Qian yesterday again hlamed President Clinton's decision last year to grant a visa to Mr Lee as being the prime cause of the present escalating tension. But he also said that if the Taiwan leadership could 'amend its ways . . . then the situation will be eased", hinting specifically that Peking has identified President Lee's campaign for a United Nations

were, however, voicing much greater fears. Tim Ting, the chief consultant for Gallup (Taiwan) and Professor of Sociology at the National Taiwan University, said: "A lot of people here believe things will go hack to normal after the 23 March polls. I think that is Dr Ting said he feared it was US aircraft carrier Nimitz March 15 to.

"too late" to find a compromise that would maintain the status quo ante, "I think President Lee is happy to see the confrontation with China, and the US getting involved ... He will continue his policy, there is



Goingdown: A dealer at the Taipei stock exchange checks data yesterday. The market Leading article, page 14 fell more than 2 per cent by close of business

#### IN BRIEF

**New Australian PM** modifies royal oath

Sydney - John Howard, Australia's new Prime Minister. and a monarchist, declined to swear allegiance to the "heirs and successors" of the Queen when he took office. He pledged allegiance to the Australian people and the Queen in the ceremony before her representative in Australia, Governor-General Sir William Deanes. Mr Howard opposed moves by his Labor predecessor, Paul Keating, to make Australia a republic by 2000, but he would not be drawn on the significance of his oath Reuter

#### 'Stalinist' warning

Sefia — Bulgaria's ruling Socialist Party was reviving the functions of the Stalinist state and restoring ties with the secret services, Andrei Lukanov, a BSP deputy and businessman, said. The Standart daily quoted him as saying he had evidence pointing to a "return to Stal-inist methods". Renter

#### Help on the way.

Rome - The United Nations World Food Programme said it had sent a second shipment of rice for flood victims in North Korea after its worst natural disaster, which struck last year. A cargo ship with 5,635 tons of rice bought in Thailand plus 903 tons on behalf of the aid organisation Caritas left Bangkok for the North Korean port of Nampo.

#### Peaceful gesture

Dushanbe - President Emomali Rakhmonov said he favoured a UN plan to end the conflict between his hardline government and the Islamic opposition. He told parliament: We must have political wisdom and resolve all issues by negotiations." The UN plan would restore political parties, including the opposition, reopen newspapers and establish a Congress of the People to advise the government. AP

#### Accident-prone

Cebu - At least a dozen people were injured when the floor collapsed in a room where Philippine officials were investigating a ferry sinking. The inquiry was being held in a government building in the central city of Cebu when the floor gave way and sent tables and other furniture crashing. Norwhen the floor caved in. He was

longed to Yugoslavia's late Communist leader Josip Broz Tito will be put on auction for a starting price of \$2m (£1.3m), Montenegro's government said. The Galeb (Seagull) was extensively used by Tito during his 35-year rule. It was also former Yugoslavia's main training ship for navy cadets. It has 300 beds, two kitchens, a bakery, luxuriously decorated salons, hairdressers and a clinic. Its log says

banks refuse

nk Eurotunn

Hwan and Roh Tae Woo. fortouts, and every other seat was most feared, and now the most

The two former presidents have appeared in court before, but never under such compelling circumstances: side by side in the same dock, and on the gravest of criminal charges

- mutiny and treason. Everyone expects them to be convicted, although it is unlikely a capital sentence will be applied.

The prison track suits were but seemingly unassailable, one

Chun, a former general who seized power in 1979, was notorious for having ordered the hloody suppression of a civilian uprising in the south-western city

His successor. Roh. was also Five years later, he gave way to democracy movement who had

surancipolicy. Despite repeated calls for their indictment, he repeatechis belief that they must be left to the judgement of history". Then, in October last year, tate prosecutors annound an investigation into claimshat Roh had amassed a stagging political slush fund— \$355(£237bn) worth of bribes in exchge for government con-tracts/arded during his presi-

perpetrators of Kwangju ap-peared to be their greatest innoble aims.

bribdand then the 1979 coup and Kwangju massacre. funds which, according to his opponents, had directly hene-T President speaks of

ALIDIO BOOKS ON OFFER

Pigott-Smith

Joseph Conrad, The Secret

Agent, read by loss Ackland David Guterson, Spow Patter

ders. read by Rufus Sewell Ted Hughes, Reading his poetry Elmore Leonard, Get Shorty,

read by Joe Mantegna Walter Mosley, **Dovil in A Blue** 

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Connec McCarthy, All The Pretty Horses, read by 3rad Pat 11. Nancy Mitford, Love In A

read by Simon Callow Rose Tremain, Restor read by Derek Jacobi

se, read by Paul Windeld

On Codars, read by Tim

homas Hardy, The Wo

historic trial will help prevent such unfortunate incidents from being repeated", and few Koreans would dissent from these Incidentally, President Kim is

doing himself a power of politod. This week sees the behad been expected to lose its

Koreans clamour for justice in the trial of two presidents made disasters, overshadowed by the constant threat from the Stalinist regime in the North, South

Korea is never a predictable place and Mr Kim's crusade has caused quiet consternation among the conservative establishment, particularly in the mi itary. But it has also tapped a vein of powerful emotion among ordinary Koreans, which may yet

"We've waited for 16 years,

# berto Nepangue, captain of the Geetchen Lewhich sank near

among those injured, Reuter Tito's yacht for sale Belgrade - A yacht that be-

Tito spent 324 nights on board Galeb, built 60 years ago. Tito died in May 1980.

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Eliott, read by the author

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Geraldine McEwan

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Ground, read by David Riraoul

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won (about £900).

For this sum, a little less than the average worker's monthly wage, you could huy a small square of blue paper, and a few hours in chamber 417 But more than one hundred people had camped out with the taken. South Korcans have heen waiting 16 years for the Kwangju trial and, every Monday for the rest of the month,

it is going to be the greatest show in town. Yesterday, at half past nine, to an angry roar from a few hundred demonstrators, three large huses arrived. Inside the gates, beyond the range of the egg-

court were prisoner number 3124 and prisoner number 1042 of the Seoul District Court. better known as Chun Doo

TAIWAN

hated men in South Korea.

anonymous but the faces were more unpleasant aspect of the instantly recognisable. First into country's turbulent past.

of Kwangju five months later.

implicated in the massacre. But Roh had the distinction of introducing democracy to South Korea, having defeated a divided opposition in the first presidential elections in 1988. the present President, Kim Young Sam, a hero of the

denc he prosecutors arrested Roh II, within a few weeks, Churoth were charged with

gunning of an election campaign in which his New Korea Party parliamentary majority. Having snatched the opposition's main complaint against him out of their hands. Kim is looking, if not safe, then stronger. He has also placed a decisive distance between himself and the slush

be difficult to control. and our suffering has never stopped," said the mother of a student killed at Kwangju "We've come here to rip them to pieces. We've come to take Chun, and if each of us takes

just a piece of his body, not even a bone will be left over."

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of Tom Sharpe's The Throwback. The books

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DEATHS, I

two seminal pieces. Wodwo and Crow.

Patricia Hodge reads a tale of subtle sibling rivalry in Joanna Trollope's A Spanish Lover. Lizzie has it all, a husband, four children and a job running an art gallery. Twin sister Frances has only her career - and an exotic lover. Which sparks

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more than just sisterly concern from Lizzie...

#### HOW TO QUALIFY

# Harollins

Investment: Rugby held in its own territory Market report: Takeover talk proves good for C&W Hamish McRae: A growl as bond markets show teeth CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

business

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London holds firm asanic spreads to Asia

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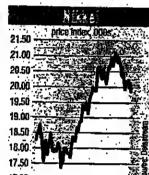
TOM STEVENSON and DAVID USBORNE

London held the line in the face of overnight panic selling on Asian bourses yesterday, with the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares falling just 35.8 points to close at 3674.5. That compared with a lunchtime low of 81.2 points down and weekend fears that markets were preparing for a re-run of 1987's meltdown.

By the time Wall Street opened yesterday afternoon nomic disaster." sentiment had swung completely, with the Dow swiftly clawing back 31 of the 171 points it lost last Friday in a sellng frenzy that convinced many cent plunge in October 1987. the US market's long party was finally over.

Last week's sell-off was in response to an unexpected jump in US non-farm payroll num-



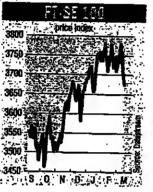


door on further interest rate cuts in market sentiment was the in America. But by yesterday New York analysts had come to the conclusion that a stronger economy would actually be good for corporate profits.

William LeFevre, an analyst at Ehrenkrantz King Nussbaum, said: The average point drop Friday was two for each Dow stock. That's not the end of the world. We're not worried about a recession or inflation and we're not looking at an eco-

Market watchers were playing down the scale of last week's self-off, comparing the 3 per cent decline with the record 22.6 per

Dealers in Europe had braced themselves for another sell-off yesterday but there was no feelmg that a repeat of the 1987 global crash was on the cards. A signal of an apparent change





calm reaction to data showing strong US house sales, although they indicated the same trend

seen in Friday's jobs figures. Bob Semple, markets analyst at NatWest Securities, ponred cold water on the worst scare stories: "There was an overreaction on Friday and there has now been time to reflect. There is no real crash on the cards. If people had been in a really bearish mood, they would have alighted on the strong US housing data as another reason to sell. I'm reasonably sanguine about the outlook."

But in the Far East, the combination of Wall Street's fall and the heightening tension be-tween China and Tajwan wreaked havoc on Asian stockmarkets. Hardest hit was Hong Kong, which suffered its worst fall since 1987 after the Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Taiwan's first direct presidential elections on 23 March were part of a plot to win independence for the island.

Peking takes over control of Hong Kong from Britain in July 1997, and the renewed tension over Taiwan has done nothing to calm local investors' fears about the handover.

The Hang Seng index of Hong Kong's blue chips plunged 7.3 per cent as sellers focused on fresh Chinese military exercises off Taiwan. It closed 820.34 points lower at 10,397.45, the second argest one-day points loss and the Hong Kong market's fifth biggest percentage collapse.
Tokyo, which had opened

relatively firmly, took its cue from Hong Kong, falling to the year's closing low of 19,796.29, a drop of almost 2 per cent as buyers remained sidelined by worries over the budget impasse as well as Wall Street. Shares in Singapore and Sydney also lost more than 3 per

was sparked by surprisingly pears that most investers main jumpy all week. Attention strong February jobs reports, in-



cluding a drop in the unployment rate from 5.8 to 5.5 cent. The figures in turn burd bopes of any further cut interest rates by the US Feddl Reserve. Bonds suffered thr worst day in almost two decads.

cent on the day.

But by the evidence of ysfriday's Wall Street retreat terday morning, at least, it p-

stock market remains upwards. "The market is proving this morning that it's trying to go higher," remarked William LeFevre. "Friday was not the end of the a bull market and the beginning of something bad."

Even so, market observers think Wall Street is likely to rewill be closely focused on the

bond market, where prices recovered a little vesterday, even commented Ricky Harrington. an analyst at Interstate-Johnson though the January house-sales Lane. "I believe the market is figures showed a surprising changing character. jump of 4.2 per cent when an-Steven Leuthard of Leuthard Asset Allocation alysts had expected a drop. Also critical, will be US infla-Fund noted: "This isn't a bear tion figures due to be released market, but there is one out

on Thursday and Friday. "I think we're entering a much more interesting market,

Nick Knight, Nomura

4A bounce on Wall Street after the decline was pretty inevitable. But it might have been better in the long run if there had been a genuine bloodletting now, if the marune bloodletting now. If the mar-ket goes up now there is a danger that people will take the chance to sell – there could be a reaction to the reaction to the action.

4There was an overreaction on Fri-day and there has now been time to reflect. There is no real crash lect. There is no real crash to reflect. There is no real crash on the cards. If people had been in a really bearish mood, they would have alighted on the strong US housing data as another reason to sell. I'm reasonably sanguine about the outlook.

Richard Davidson,
Morgen Stamley
4This is not like 1987, or 1994
when the bond market crashed.
The outlook for the markets is not
as negative as it was then nor as
negative as some people now think
it is. There is still scope for European interest rates to fall, and they
are certainly not soing to go up. are certainly not going to go up.
A grinding downward move in the
US need not hit the European markets. There have been 11 cor-rections of more than 10 per cent in the US in the past quarter cenin the US in the past quarter century. Europe has gone up in 5 ceses. When it went doem it was either because of a global event like the invesion of kuwait or a short short of the the invesion of kuwait or a short sharp correction like the 1987 crash.

Corey Miller, Société Générale 4There is a lot of volatility in the markets because we are at that stage of the economic cycle where prospects are hazier. There is a risk of another correction as ong as there is that volatility. But tioning as there is that volatifity. But the fundamentals are still very good - we have a steady growth, low inflation environment. There is a lot of underlying strength in the US

Trevor Greetham, Mentil Lynch \*Last Friday's Jobs figure was a rogue number, yet the market jumped on it as evidence that the US economy had turned on a six-pence. We think the economy will pence, we mink the ecotomy will slow and expect further interest rate cuts. The worry for equities is that earnings growth will be affected, disappointing investors and there is a lot of nervous money Invested on Wall Street.

### Industrial weakness calms markets feel fully vindicated by his decision to cut base rates, said David Walton at the invest-based Walton at the invest-based with the feel fully vindicated by his decision to cut base rates, said based when the first showed that the trend in inshowed that the trend in the trend

DIANE COYLE ...

ಷಿಂದುಅರಣ**ಿಯಾ** 

British industry has been stuck in the doldrums since the new year. Industrial output declined in January while the rise in prices at the factory gate last month was surprisingly small.

With a separate survey suggesting that retail sales growth slowed a little in the year to February, yesterday's batch of statistics helped restore calm to the financial markets and encouraged economists who thought last week's reduction in the cost of borrowing was justified.

ment bank Goldman Sachs.

However, most City analysts said there was no prospect of another cut in the short term as long as the financial markets remained unsettled. Others think there is a danger of greater inflationary pressure later in the year.

The end of the period of base rate cuts is approaching." Mr Walton said. Indicators such as growth of the money supply measures and house prices

dued in January. It fell 0.5 per cent in January due to lower

Output of energy and weaker North Sea gas extraction, the result of a one-degree improvement in the average temperature for the month. Production was flat in the three months to January, and

only 1.7 per cent higher than a year earlier. Manufacturing output re-

gained the same level as its mid-

months to January than the prvious three months, and p only 0.5 per cent in the year

Manufacturing was wer across the board during the la est three-month period. The only area of strength was outp of durable goods - consiste with surveys which have show

expected rise last month in both manufacturers' materials costs and prices charged at the factory gate.

Input prices fell for the second month, dowo 0.3 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis. They rose 3 per cent in the year sales of goods such as furnitue to February, the slowest rate of and carpets starting to climb. growth since June 1994. Their "The trend in manufacturit level has fallen by nearly 2 per output remains chronical cent during the past six months.

Society bonanza may broaden

banks, may soon win the right to and Alliance & Leicester, are join in any future flotation bonanza under government pro-

posals to be published next week. - are entitled to a vote on this is-Building societies would also have to inform depositors of serious proposals they receive. such as takeover bids, as part of a Treasury move to make them accountable to all members. However, societies would

rent account holders, who are presently barred from receiving free shares when their societies de-mutualise and convert to building society movement. Three of the top four societies, de-mutualise and convert to building Halifax, Woolwich Three of the top four societies, believed this was unlikely.

Another change is that of let seeking hank status.

there somewhere."

Members of building societies sue, but those with current accounts, such as the 1.2 million Maxim depositors at Halifax and more than one million Alliance & Leicester account bolders, are not.

Despite the new proposals, building societies could still ex-

uncry to be published in a draft holders from having voting winners of huilding society curbill next Monday. They come at rights and benefiting from fu

ting building societies include rented accommodation for the first time in the 75 per cent of their loans that must be secured on property, permitting them to become large-scale landlords.

The draft Bill would also extend the role of the Building So cieties Ombudsman to covemost or all financial services ac tivities normally overseen by

### Big banks refuse to sink Eurotunnel

RUSSELL HOTTEN

The threat of Eurotunnel's smaller banks forcing the company into receivership this week appears to have been averted

by the bigger creditors. The 225 banks, owed £8bn by the Channel Tunnel operator, had a chance to vote on whether to reject the suspension of interest payments imposed by Eurotunnel six months ago.

Attempts by some smaller creditors to muster support against the standstill risked widening divisions among the banks, just as the two Eurotunnel mediators appointed last month begin work. Eurotunnel's unilateral sus-

pension of junior debt for 18 months, costing the banks more than £1m a day in interest, outraged some smaller

creditors. have until this

against the arrangement, otherwise the standstill will continue for another 12 months. Opponents must raise 65 per cent support, by value of the banks' exposure, if they are to

vote down the standstill. But one banking source said yesterday: "There now seems to be little mood among the majority of banks for any serious challenge. I do not think there will be a vote."
The 35 Japanese banks,

thought to be owed up to 25 per cent of the debt, have been among the most strident op-ponents of the standstill. Yesterday, debt traders said Japanese creditors would continue to be heavy sellers of their debt as their reporting sea-

son gathers pace. Gary Klesch, of Klesch & Co, said debt was trading at around 32p in the pound, though there was little evidence that the big Japanese banks were selling in

### £2.4m pay-off or Lord Young

JOHN EISENHAMMER

Lord Young is to pocket £2.4m under the terms of a pay-off agreement announced yesterday with Cable & Wireless, where he was removed as chairman last November during a dra-

matic boardroom bust-up. The bulk of the package comes from a profit on share options worth £2.2m. The balance will be made up of three months' salary, worth £119,000, a share of the directors' bonus scheme, and pension entitle-

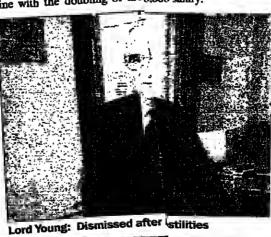
Lord Young of Graffham was dismissed, along with C&W's chief executive, James Ross, after an outbreak of hostilities that led the board to conchude that both top men had to

It was after this clear-out that BT made a second takeover approach to C&W, it was confirmed by both companies yesterday. But C&W said the exploratory talks broke

down, and there are no currenhare price during his time as hairman of the company."

negotiations.

Brian Smith, who took ove C&W said it would not make Brian Smith, who took over Cox w said it would not make as chairman of C&W, said of hiry payments to enhance Lord predecessor's pay-off: "Thioung's existing contractual settlement is fair to everyonenesson rights. His salary in eoncerned: the company, Loro95-96 was £475,000. The com-Young, our employees andny had previously agreed a shareholders. Lord Young will 2m pay-off package with Mr gain from his share options inss, who had been on a line with the doubling of the 0,000 salary.



Lord Young did not have an employment contract, at his own request. James Ross was on

a one-year rolling contract. Rod Olsen has taken over as acting chief executive, but the company is still looking for a permanent replacement. The boardroom bust-up reflected strong differences over the strategy of running C&W as a global federation of disparate companies, the biggest of which is the controlling stake in Hongkong Telecom.

Adding to the tension was the mixed performance of C&W's Mercury subsidiary, which was set up to compete with BT in the UK, but with disappointing resulıs.

Lord Young, 64, served in several ministerial posts during Margaret Thatcher's years as Prime Minister. First as Secretary of State for Employment. and then at the Department of Trade and Industry until 1989. Lord Young joined C&W as chairman on 1 October 1990.

Market Report, page 20

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Fred McClenaghan, The West Lancs Project, I Westgate, Pennylands, Skelmersdale, West Lancashire WN8 8LP. Telephone: 01695 50200 Fax: 01695 50112

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#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

# Rugby held in its own ritory

Rugby surprised no one with a 12 per cent underlying fall in profits from its cement and jointry businesses – the markets it operates in have been awful for more than a year now, But it did manage to raise some eyebrows with a total exceptional charge of £26.9m, which blew a hole in results for the 12 cash flow than its earnings figures would suggest. That provides a floor to the shares, but with a sub-market fell on lower cash balances of £40 ed a further 2p to 103p yesterday. The fan heater business was his analysts forecasting profits of were up by 50 per cent, margins whe shares look unexciting.

After that write-off, the pre-tax number slipped 40 percent to £45.8m (£76.1m) and carnings per share fell a similar amount to 4.5p (8.1p), just about

covering the year's dividend of 3.6p. Most of the damage was caused at the famously difficult US distribution subsidiary, acquired at the wrong stage of the cycle and the cause of anguish ever since. The latest restructuring appears to be a root-and-branch revamp

and an admission at last that it was a had deal. Etsewhere there is evidence that last year's resignation for health reasons of Rugby's longstanding chief executive. Peter Cart, is having a tonic effect on the group's strategic direction. The planned sale of the metat building products arm, which makes steel struc-

lures and reinforcing wire, is a welcome concentration on the core businesses. Some would say it is also about time £18m in the year to too. Rugby has been well and truly overtaken by Blue Circle in the coment business and its margins are now half those of its bigger rival. Replacing half its capacity with new plant will help, but the effect won't be felt for two or three years. The cost of that, at about £100m. was outlined yesterday. It will necessitate another write-off of almost £10m. In the doors and windows business.

going in a market still dogged by over-Capacity.

The housing market is expected to pick up in the second half of this year but the sort of anaemic recovery currently being forecast will hardly be enough to make up for the complacency which has arguably seen the company sitting for too long on its leading po-

it is also hard to see where profits are

sition in the industry. On the basis of forecast profits of £77.5m this year and £87m next time, the shares, down 2p to 113p, stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 12.3. That is shead of the sector. which seems demanding given the limited prospects, putting too much faith in what is a fairly attractive salesto-price ratio, a good return on capi-tal and strong balance sheet.

Rugby is touted as a potential bid.

Fairey romaing bulling £50m for Particle Measuring

Systems, a US high-tech com-

the microchip industry to detect

cent to £196.3m, bang in line

with City expectations. Sir

Robin said: "The combination

of organic growth and devel-

opment by acquisition bas again

enabled Fairey to move forward

in a very positive way. These fig-

ures reflect an improvement in

all business sectors."

Pre-tax profits in the year to

contamination.

spite warning yesterday that 31 December rose from £25.8m

the general economic environ- to £34.2m, on sales up 35 per

media 🐧

marketing/

pany that makes instruments for of that growth came from the ac-

target because it has much better

Fairey Group, the specialist

electronics and engineering

company, remained bullish

about its prospects in 1996 de-

The company, which reported pre-tax profits up 33 per cent,

said it would be protected

against any economic slow-

down by its expansion in Asian

In January Fairey, chaired by

BICC's Sir Robin Biggam, paid

and American markets.

### Sports brands

lead at Pentland Pentland has built a portfolio of some of the best-known brands in sports, including Speedo swimwear, Berghaus outdoor clothing and Ellesse shoes. That is the glamorous side of the business and it has forged ahead; there is an ugly sister 100, however, and it has

been letting the side down. Pentland's other division is consumer products which includes three businesses that make electrical appliances.

greeting cards and wrapping paper. Last year all three had a torrid time. In the full year to December, prelax profits were flat at £38m on sales 19 per cent higher at £755m. While

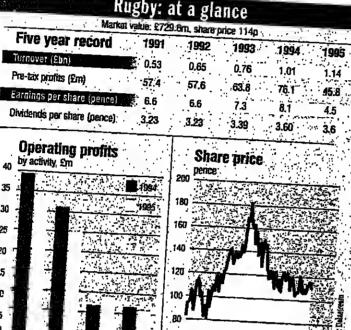
ican business which supplies electric

was put under pressure by intense combeing knocked back by the negpetition and higher paper prices.

Pentland is now conducting a strategic review which might see the disposal
of these husinesses. Some analysis expect a sale this year though as all three

thentic Fitness Corporation, the Speedo licensee listed in New York, increased its contribution to Pentland's profits by 41 per cent last year to £6m. Mitre, the supplier of footballs which

profits at the footwear, clothing and expected to make a profit until 1997 but Ellesse and Berghaus increased was acquired last year for £9.5m is not



Earnings were up 20 per cent

to 27.4p. More than 50 per cent

quisition of Measuring Systems

and of Loma, a private detection

equipment company bought last

year for £18.5m. Both Measuring Systems and Loma were

performing in line with expec-tations, Sir Robin said.

Adjusting for acquisitions and movements in advances, un-

derlying cash generation was £8.4m. Fairey is paying a final dividend of 5.45p (4.75p), mak-

ing a total of 8p (7p) for the year, an increase of 14 per cent.

Memory

shares dip

further

Shares in Memory Corp, the AIM-listed microchip repairer, continued their slide yesterday, on investor fears of a sharp de-

cline in profits, writes Mathew

From a high of 555p last September, the shares plunged

to 135p at one point vesterday. recovering modestly to close at 142p, down 13p on the day. The

drop follows a single-week rout of 215p last week, as the shares

The drop has infuriated in-vestors who subscribed to a

placement of 1.2 million shares at 420p last autumn, just before

a computer-chip price war was launched by US giant Intel.

Prices for chips have dropped by 60 per cent since then.

Memory Corp was relent

less promoted as a one of AIM's clear success stories: a high-tech stock with a clear market niche

Floated in 1994 at 45p, it joined

buys defective chips, repairs them and creates refurbished

boards for computer manufac-

turers. It had initially estimat-

ed the value of the market by 2000 to be £20bn, but that is

sure to drop.

Memory also suffered pro-

duction delays that affected re-sults in 1995. That year, the company posted a loss of £1.95m.

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The Scottish-based company

AIM in September last year.

appeared to be in free-fall.

accessories to the DIY market, has G requires a been affected by retailers running G requires a down their stocks as well as higher rame material prices. Hanson White, the greeting card and gift wrap business

i more pedestrian rate.

over, which had fallen hy

1 of 1995, reacting to the criti-

Cextended warranties by the Of-

fair Trading, recovered to show 5 nt growth in the latter half of

is performance indicator, in-

cray 9.5 per cent. The dividend

sults suggest that demand for exit warranty products is more ro-bus; the OFT or the Consumers

Asson would have us believe. De

spiter scepticism as to the value of prging product insurance once

the infacturer's guarantee for a wash achine or video recorder has

expir)&G continues to have very

high swal rates among its 2.7 mil-

lion ciners. HSBC James Capel es-

timatel-year profits of £11.4m, with

an EPf 111p, putting the stock at

just un 15 times earnings, or a sim-

ilar rat to the market as a whole.

But estors need to look well be-

yond thurrent results to form a view

on D& The company is currently spendinheavily in an attempt to

replicatin the Continent, especially

in Germy, its phenomenal pioneer

ing succe in the UK. Early results are

moderate encouraging, but this is a

green-fie venture, and will take time.

If five yea from now the company can

demonstrae significant progress in

Germanythen the current £16 share

price look cheap. But it is a blg if and

financial ervice concepts are often poor at crossing national boundaries.

High enough.

Pee was raised to 12.25p.

. Net retained income, which

per cent in the first six

pect a sale this year though as all three But the 6.8 per cent rise in profare profitable there is plainly no rush. For tax for the six months to 31

Of the sports brands, Pentland has ther 1995 to £5.39m confirms high hopes of Speeds this year due to high hopes of Speedo this year due to exposure at the Olympic games. Authentic Fitness Corporation the

o Decemb	ber, profits	OUL L	llesse and ales and p	Berghaus rofits.	increase
Rı	igby: a	t a gla	псе		
Market	value: £729.	6m, share o	vice 114n		
ecord	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
	0.53	0.65	0.76	1.01	1 14
)	57.4	57.6	. 63.8	76.1	45.8
е (репсе)		6.6	7.3	8.1	4.5
(pence)	3,23	3.23	3.39	3.60	3.6
profits		Dence.	e price		
5-12-20	1994	200	u 15-7 (12-7)	Contract Pro	
-V ( 3 2 2 2 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	1995	180	-	7.0	11.00

### John Willcock CITY DIARY

# Management cleans up in Addis sweepstakes

Addis, the leading maker of plastic household products such as mops and buckets, has been bought by its own management for £20m. The Swansea-based company has been built up by the Addis family over 40 years. It is probably best known for the TV ads of a few years back starring Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones, in which some bumble Addis products were mistaken for an art exhibit until they were removed by the cleaning lady. Coincidentally, Addis sponsors the UK Independent Retailer of the Year Award, which has just been won by Griffiths DIY of Manchester. That's Richard Griffiths at the top of our picture, holding the prestigious Tiffany crystal trophy. In the middle row are two Addis sales people, Richard Schmidt on the left and Mike Badd on the right. Bottom left is Chris Drew of Maslens

keting manager, and on the right Adrian Humphries, another runner-up from Humphries Homestyle, Bridport. Nice mops. "I saw your grandmother at the weekend. She sends her regards," Chancellor Ken-Clarke told BBC reporter Jonathan Charles yesterday. Mr Clarke was in Brussels to discuss that evergreen subject, monetary union, with other EU finance ministers, but he had no intention of

well. Hey nonny.

DIY of Bishops Stortford, one of the runners-up, and

Mark Sharman, Addis mar-

sharing his opinions with the surprised BBC man. It is not clear whether 83-year-old Nancy Lewis of Nottingham

Prithee, sirrali, no sooner is the reconstruction of Shake-

speare's Globe Theatre on London's South Bank nearing com-

corporate hospitality suites on the site. Not actually inside the

pletion than the developers are seeking to erect a series of

reconstructed playbouse, due to open in August, but in an adjacent half-timbered "olde" style building yet to be built.

They could liven up proceedings by requiring corporate delegates to wear doublet and hose and so on. And all the Shake-

spearian tales of back-stabbing and betrayal should go down



s a Tory supporter, or a single currency supporter, or has any thoughts on a referen-dum. But Mr Clarke was determined not to let anything slip about EMU which might be seized on by Tory Eurosceptics, currently baying for blood, or which might indicate a difference of emphasis from John Major.

To the plush Marriott Hotel off London's glitzy Grosvenor Square on Sunday for an evening of unrestrained luvviedom at the Lloyds Private Banking Playwright of the Year Award. The Black Horse bank coughed up a cool £25,000 for the winner, playwright Sebastian Barry. after his play The Steward of Christendom got the thumbs up from the judges. Dame Diana Rigg presented the prize, Melvyn Bragg chaired the

panel of judges and Ned Sherrin provided a suitably witty record of the past year in theatreland. There was a charming musical entertain-ment bonouring Noel Coward provided by Peter Greenwell and Patricia Hodge, with the master's own godson, Sheridan Morley, narrating.

Tales of the City. Last Friday afternoon, as Wall Street fell-out of bed and dealing screens turned red etc, a large group of stockbrokers whose employer shall remain anonymous were ensconced in their favourite City hostelry enjoy-ing a well-earned end of week heer-up. These occasions are usually perfectly safe from an employment point of view, since establishments like this routinely have a Ceefax . screen above the bar which would alert the drinkers to any serious business. Sadly. the screen was switched off, so when people came into the bar and said "Wall Street's off a hundred points"-the brokers. replied "Pull the other one." As a result yesterday morning. the skivers were tied to their desks for the day. Journalists. don't get up to that kind of

# dive more than 90%

TOM STEVENSON

Laporte, Britain's secondlargest chemicals company, yesterday confirmed the City's worst expectations following last December's profits warning. After an £88.7m exceptional charge to cover the cost of a

wide-ranging strategic review, earnings per share collapsed more than 90 per cent. oup's restructuring, which
The new chief executive, Jim
Lhin weeks of his arrival had

vear for Laporte and disap-tor. A detailed strategic repointing, particularly in the whas been concluded which second half." Mr Leng, whose arrival from ture. A vigorous action plan the Dundee-based packaging rationalise and refocus the group Low & Bonar last au-pup and to reduce costs is now tunn was greeted with a fanfare !! under way be said. of high expectation, shocked in Nine of the company's 100 vestors just weeks after his ares or offices will be closed as rival by warning that profits foresult of the rationalisation, the year would be below 1994, the about 300 employees los-

Leng, said: "It goes without say- en the departure of its former ing that 1995 was a challenging lief executive and finance di-

Ore than 90%  Sult. The market had expection an improved out-turn.  As foreshadowed, pre-tax offits emerged at £113.2m bere the exceptional charge, pwn 8 per cent from 1994's  Swings of the process of the process of the process of the exceptional charge, pwn 8 per cent from 1994's  Swings of the process o	
Ore than 90%   Seriad via (7)   376n (789m)   35.7m (39.5m)   10p (14.73 an improved out-turn.   As foreshadowed, pre-tax ofits emerged at £113.2m bere the exceptional charge, porte was hit in 1905 pers. La.	1
Ore than 90%  Sult. The market had expecting an improved out-turn.  As foreshadowed, pre-tax offits emerged at £113.2m beret the exceptional charge, porte was hit in 1905 beret.  British Vita (?)  Strong (?80m)  Strong (?80m)  Strong (3.0m)  Stro	Divisions _
in improved out-turn.  As foreshadowed, pre-tax of its emerged at £113.2m bere the exceptional charge, porte was hit in 1905 pers. La.  But market had expecting a might be in jobs. Full benefits of the restructuring are not expected before next year.  Like many of its peers, La.  Cos smap (1) 14.3m (4.9m) 1.2m (0.1m) 4.27g (0.88) 1.3m (0.1m) 1.2m (0.1m	V-1
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an improved out-turn.  As foreshadowed, pre-tax of its emerged at £113.2m bere the exceptional charge, porte was hit in 1905 pers.  Like many of its peers, Lafery Broop (f) 143ar (4.9tm) 12m (0.1m) 427g (0.88 to pers.) 143ar (4.9tm) 12m (0.1m) 427g (0.88 to pers.) 143ar (4.9tm) 12m (0.1m) 427g (0.88 to pers.) 15arry Broop (f) 186m (145m) 342m (25.8m) 27.4g (22.8g) 17arry Broop (f) 186m (145m) 342m (25.8m) 27.4g (22.8g) 17arry Broop (f) 186m (145m) 342m (25.8m) 27.4g (22.8g) 17arry Broop (f) 186m (145m) 12m (0.1m) 427g (0.88 to pers.) 15arry Broop (f) 143arry Broop (f) 15arry Broop (f) 143arry Broop (f) 15arry Broop (f) 15arry Broop (f) 143arry Broop (f) 15arry Broop	
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	1. Br (2n)
23.5m. The fall comm 1994's swings in the price of its result in the price	2750 (20)
ite an 11 per cent it de- materials.	p) .lr8.9pt(7.9p)
es to £1.08bn, underlying year's warning closes a life in the control of the cont	
g the second half of the year. Is reputation which saw [may 6] 34.5m (124m) 4.3p (46.1p)	230 (22.40)
OUD'S restructuring the expected trading statement Its   March 1   1.45m (4.89m) 1.45m (4.89m) 1.45m (4.89m) 1.45m (4.89m)	0.50 (0.250)
inin weeks of his arrival had the appropriate feet 1899 on the day of Parke Store (S) 15.58m (15.6m) 12.09m (12.12)	o) 12.25p (11.5p)
icf executive and financial 1995 of 613p, although the Parlingt from 19	7p (6.2p)
What has been seen as a strategic re- down 7p vester day. Paramenou (7)	. 3.3p (2:1p)
nfirms our confidence in the exceptional Return from m. 2280 [2430] 349 (1430)	9.5p (9.5p)
rationalise and reference 10 per cent to 41.5p from 46 la	1.tp (1.05p)
sup and to reduce costs is now was a more decline   Rombert Group (F) 93.7m (69.5m) 15 (Post 200.0)	
Vine of the company and to 4.3p. Despite the fall I process	6p (4.8p)
s of offices will be closed as final dividend of 14 sept from (F) 1.14th (1.01th) 45.8m (78 lm)	3.4p (2.9p)
about 300 employees less of the year of the year of the year of the grant of the gr	3.6p (3.6p)
300.3m [244.9m] 20.2m [27.8m] 10.2m	13.2p (11.5p)

#### IN IEF

Redrow sees the I Redrow's chairman, Steven L sounded an optimistic note Redrow's chairman, Steven 1, sounded an optimistic note vesterday despite announcing interim pre-tax profits from £16.3m to £12.1m for the sits to December. He said: "I believe the period saw the at in the housing market cycle and these results represent performance in a difficult market. During the promoths house prices have stabilised and there has bedual return of customer constabilised and there has bedual from £108.7m to £94.8m. fidence." Turnoverslipped of half from £108.7m to £94.8m, earnings per share were 3.1 and the interim dividend in-

11.5p to 79.5p yesterday a it saw no reason for the sud-

### den share price rise last in 81p to 91p. It also warned that its full-year results w o be some way below current

Persimmon find Synergies Persimmon said vesterded to make "substantial" cost savings from its £177m deal Homes. Duncan Davidson said he saw good "s fits" from consolidating Persimmon's 13 operating and Ideal's seven units into 15 new subsidiaries. In all shead office will be merged with Persimmon's. The er yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £22.8m, ccf £24.3m last time, and a main-

to December from

creased to 1.1p (1.05p).

Warning from Co

Costain, the building and

expectations. Analysis er froup to post a small pre-tax loss for 1995, which complast year's loss of £180.4m.

tion group, saw its shares fall

#### tained dividend of 9.5

Gloomy noises tish Vita British Vita's chairmete, described 1995 as an "ex-tremely difficult year entedly high levels of raw macompanies operating against terial increases and w a backcloth of weak a backcloth of weak are was speaking as the chemicals company annot in pre-tax profits for the year 7m. The company's earnings he dividend nudged up from

### BANK OF SCOTLAND INTEREST RATE CHANGE

With effect from 11th March 1996, interest rates payable on the undernoted accounts have changed. MONEY MARKET CHEQUE ACCOUNT BANKING DIRECT CHEQUE ACCULNT

4.50

£	2,500	to £24	9,999 ,999 :		4.25 3.50
	MONE CI	r atari Pote	VET BI	SINE	SS T
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£250,000 and above 5.50

£100,000 to £249,999

£25,000 to £99,999

£2,500 to £24,999

0.25 BANKING DIRECT NAFSTMENT ACCOUNT £250,000 and above Gross% £25,000 to £249,999 £10,000 to £24,999 5.25 £5,000 to £9,999 4.50 Less than £5,000 3.00

£100,000 and above

£25,000 to £99,999

£10,000 to £24,999

£5,000 to £9,999

Less than £5,000

Gross - The annual rate of interest payable without the deduction of basic rare income to eligible non tax-payers. Interest payable monthly, interest rates subject to variation.

Gross%

4.50

1.25

0.75

STEVE DOLLAR